

As workers watch from a staircase, former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum announces he is entering the Republican presidential race Wednesday, May 27, 2015, in Cabot, Pa. (AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)



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APNewsBreak:

Mideast Quartet envoy Tony Blair resigns post

JOSEF FEDERMAN
Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair on Wednesday stepped down as the international community's Mideast envoy, leaving a post that began with great promise but which struggled to deliver dramatic changes in its quest to promote peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

The departure reflected the dire state of Mideast peace efforts, which have been stalled for years and show no signs of resuming following the formation of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's new government. A top Palestinian official said he was "happy" Blair was leaving, accusing him of ineffectiveness and caving in to Israeli pressure.

Officials familiar with the work of the Quartet in the region said Blair had written a letter to United Nations chief Ban Ki-moon to confirm his resignation. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity pending a formal announcement, which came later Wednesday once the letter was received and thanked Blair for his service.

The Quartet — which includes the U.S., the European Union, Russia and the United Nations — appointed Blair to the post in

2007 with the goal of helping develop the Palestinian economy and institutions.

and people in the West Bank, and dealing with the difficulties of a Gaza

Ehud Olmert and Abbas were conducting a round of peace talks that both



Former British Prime Minister and Mideast envoy Tony Blair gestures as he speaks during joint statements with Israel's President Shimon Peres at the President's residence in Jerusalem. Blair on Wednesday, May 27, 2015, stepped down from his post as the international community's Mideast envoy, officials said, ending a term that began with great promise but which struggled to deliver dramatic changes in its quest to promote peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

(AP Photo/Sebastian Scheiner)

The mission was meant to prepare the groundwork for the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside Israel as part of a peace agreement, and the addition of the high-profile Blair gave the office star power and raised hopes for progress. But Blair quickly found himself fighting small battles with Israel over the movement of Palestinian goods

Strip ruled by the Hamas militant group and blockaded by Israel and Egypt. Hamas, which is shunned as a terrorist group by the U.S. and EU, seized control of Gaza from the rival government of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas shortly before Blair took office.

When Blair first took office, then-Israeli Prime Minister

sides have said made significant progress. But those talks ultimately failed, and since Netanyahu's election in 2009, repeated attempts at reviving talks have flopped. Netanyahu's new government is dominated by parliamentary hard-liners who oppose Palestinian independence, leaving the goal of a two-state solution as elusive as ever. □

Letter to Obama discussed in Iran at reporter's trial

ALI AKBAR DAREINI
Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — A letter a detained Washington Post journalist wrote to U.S. President Barack Obama and a trip he made to the U.S. Consulate in Dubai have become major topics of his espionage trial in Iran. Jason Rezaian, the Post's 39-year-old bureau chief in Tehran, is being tried in a Revolutionary Court on allegations of "espionage for the hostile government of the United States" and propaganda against the Islamic Republic, Iran's official IRNA news agency has reported. The Post has said he faces 10 to 20 years in prison if convicted.

The Post, U.S. diplomats and media rights organizations have criticized Rezaian's detention and the handling of the case. His trial also comes amid ongoing negotiations between Iran and world powers over its contested nuclear program.

At his first hearing Tuesday, Iran's semiofficial Mehr news agency reported that a Farsi translation of the letter Rezaian wrote to Obama was read aloud. The agency said one passage read: "In Iran, I'm in contact with simple laborers to influential mullahs." Mehr said the letter also talked about Rezaian's "network of contacts inside Iran." The agency also reported Judge Abolghasem Salavati questioned Rezaian about his contact with the U.S. Consulate in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. Rezaian's brother, Ali Rezaian, earlier told The Associated Press in Washington the letter was an online form letter his brother wrote after Obama's election in 2008 and that he visited the consulate to get a U.S. visa for his wife.

Mehr said Rezaian rejected the charges against him during the hearing. "I'm only a journalist," Mehr quoted Rezaian as saying. "All my activities were as a journalist and all were legal." □

UK:

Cameron outlines EU vote plan in Queen's Speech

JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Pomp met politics as Queen Elizabeth II donned a diamond-studded crown Wednesday to read out laws planned by Britain's new government, including more autonomy for Scotland and a referendum on whether to remain in the European Union.

It was the 62nd time the 89-year-old monarch has delivered the annual Queen's Speech, but this year's proposals have especially profound implications for the future of the United Kingdom she heads.

Prime Minister David Cameron's Conservative administration said it would "renegotiate the United Kingdom's relationship with the European Union" and hold an in or out referendum on membership by the end of 2017.

At home, it promised a "strong and lasting constitutional settlement" with major new powers for Scotland and — to a lesser extent — Wales.

The speech, delivered by the queen but written by the government, is the centerpiece of the ceremonial State Opening of Parlia-

ment. It follows a May 7 election that unexpectedly gave Cameron's center-right Conservatives a parliamentary majority — and with it the power to implement a political agenda without coalition compromises.

"This is the Queen's Speech for working people, from a one nation government that will bring our country together," Cameron told lawmakers in the House of Commons after the queen's address. He vowed to create "a country that backs those who work hard and do the right

thing."

The speech promised laws to cut red tape for small businesses and freeze income and sales tax rates until 2020. There was also a right-to-buy plan to help thousands of tenants become homeowners.

The unemployed face a lower cap on benefits, while the government plans to make it harder for unionized workers to strike and to introduce new controls on immigration.

Cameron's "one nation" may well have looser bonds. Scotland is getting more powers to raise

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Rick Santorum launches White House run

STEVE PEOPLES

JOE MANDAK

Associated Press

CABOT, Pennsylvania (AP)

— Rick Santorum, an aggressive advocate for conservative family values, launched a 2016 White House bid on Wednesday, vowing to fight for working-class Americans in a new election season that will test his influence — and focus on social issues — in a changing Republican Party.

The former Pennsylvania senator may have exceeded his own expectations by scoring a second-place finish in the race for the Republican presidential nomination four years ago. Yet as he enters a more powerful and diverse 2016 field, he may struggle even to qualify for the debate stage in his second run.



Former U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum, center, stands with his family as he announces his candidacy for the Republican nomination for President of the United States in the 2016 election on Wednesday, May 27, 2015 in Cabot, Pa.

(AP Photo/Keith Srakocic)

"I am proud to stand here, among you and for you, the American workers who have sacrificed so much, to announce that I am running for president of the United States," the 57-year-old senator said, flanked by factory workers and six of

his seven children in a cinderblock warehouse near his Pennsylvania hometown.

Santorum opens this political season as a heavy underdog in a race expected to feature more than a dozen high-profile Republicans

— most of them newcomers to presidential politics. He is among the nation's most prominent social conservatives, having dedicated much of his political career to opposing same-sex marriage and abortion rights, while advocating for conservative Christian family values.

He mentioned cultural issues only briefly on Wednesday, however, in remarks designed to broaden his appeal to working-class Americans. "As president, I will stand for the principle that every life matters — the poor, the disabled and the unborn," said Santorum, a Catholic.

He ultimately won 11 states in the Republican's 2012 primary election after an unexpected and narrow victory in the opening contest in Iowa, where he emerged as a conserva-

tive favorite after touring the state's 99 counties in a pickup truck.

This time Santorum faces considerable competition for his party's social conservatives in particular. The list of Republicans already courting religious voters includes former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, a Baptist pastor who won the Iowa caucuses in 2008, former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz. And like Santorum, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush is a Catholic.

Polling suggests a shift in voter attitudes about the importance of social issues, particularly gay marriage, which has long been a defining issue for Santorum. Santorum's longshot status may keep him out of presidential debates altogether. □



Homeowners clean up in Texas; death toll climbs to 19

SETH ROBBINS
JUAN A. LOZANO
Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — Homeowners dragged soggy carpet to the curb and mopped up coffee-colored muck Wednesday after a barrage of storms and floods in Texas and Oklahoma left at least 19 people dead and a dozen others missing.

More rain fell on the hard-hit Houston area, threatening to complicate the cleanup a day after a downpour of nearly a foot triggered some of the worst flooding the nation's fourth-largest city has ever seen. Hundreds of homes were damaged.

Heavy weather continued in other parts of Texas, with hundreds of people west of Fort Worth told to evacuate along the rising Brazos River and flash flood warnings posted in many areas.

Gadi Shaulsky spent the day cutting wet carpet and padding from his home in Houston's Meyerland section and taking it to the curb. His neighbors were doing the same. A water mark showed that up to 6 inches of water had seeped into the home.

"That was just really frightening. It was just flowing in," said Shaulsky's wife, Jodi. With tears in her eyes, she added: "It's hard to wrap your head around all that needs to be done."

Houston Mayor Annise Parker said two people whose boat capsized during a rescue were missing. Another person was missing in suburban Houston. And in central Texas, crews resumed the search for nine people feared dead after the swollen Blanco River smashed through Wimberley, a small tourist town between San Antonio and

Austin, over the Memorial Day weekend.

Matt Meeks and his wife, Natalie, worked to clean up the resort on the banks of the Blanco that has been in his family for five generations, since the 1920s.

Of the 14 rock cabins at

they were able to get all 100 guests out safely after the fire chief called to warn that the river was rising. The river had never gotten so close to the cabins before, Meeks said.

This has been the wettest month on record for Texas,

than 20 inches of rain.

Authorities, meanwhile, defended their telephone and in-person warnings to residents ahead of the bad weather but acknowledged the difficulty in reaching tourists and said a messaging system in Hous-

ing the loss of a two-story vacation home that was swept downstream and slammed into a bridge. Eight people in the home were missing, including three children.

Authorities in surrounding Hays County said the warn-



Wilber Albarenga, left, and Alfredo Chavez, pump water from the United Orthodox Synagogues of Houston, which suffered extensive damage by flooding from a recent storm Wednesday, May 27, 2015, in Houston. More rain fell on the hard-hit Houston area, threatening to complicate the cleanup a day after a downpour of nearly a foot triggered some of the worst flooding Houston has ever seen.

(Gary Coronado/Houston Chronicle via AP)

Rio Bonito Resort, probably only five will be salvageable, they said. Two were destroyed and seven appeared structurally unsound.

Meeks' parents own the resort, but he took charge of removing the debris and salvaging the furniture because "they're too emotionally tied to the place to decide what gets junked and what stays."

On the night of the flood,

and there are still several days left. The state climatologist's office said Wednesday that Texas has gotten an average of 7.54 inches of rain in May, breaking the old record of 6.66 inches, set in June 2004.

Texas has been hit with almost continuous storms for the past week to 10 days. The wettest area has been from Dallas-Fort Worth to the Red River, where some places have gotten more

ton is awaiting improvements.

"Nobody was saying, 'Get out! Get out! Get out!'" said Brenda Morton of Wimberley. She said year-round residents know the risks, but "people who were visiting or had summer homes, you have company from out of town, you don't know. You don't know when that instant is."

Wimberley saw some of the heaviest damage, includ-

ings included multiple cell-phone alerts and calls to landlines.

The first wave of warnings went to phones of registered users, which could have missed many tourists. But officials said that as the danger escalated they used a commercial database that would have delivered a warning to virtually anyone whose cell-phone was in range of local towers. □

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FBI: Surveillance tools in jeopardy amid US debate

ERIC TUCKER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As Congress wrestles over renewing the law that authorizes bulk collection of Americans' phone records, federal law enforcement officials are warning that legal authority is also at risk for lesser-known surveillance tools that are even more valuable in fighting terrorism. The Patriot Act, passed after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, authorities give the FBI flexibility to intercept the calls of terror suspects who continuously switch phones during the course of an investigation and to conduct surveillance on "lone wolf" individuals who pose threats but aren't affiliated with an international terrorism organization. U.S. officials have defended the need for those powers over the last decade, but have amplified those efforts in recent weeks as the expiration dates for their authority nears without any signals of a congressional compromise that would keep

them from lapsing along with other parts of the act on June 1. The Senate returns to session on Sunday, facing

Americans' phone records in bulk. Provisions of the Patriot Act dealing with lone-wolf targets and all-roving wiretaps would

be a useful tool to the FBI's counterterrorism efforts. But recently he has expressed more concern about being able to main-

tain the lone wolf and roving wiretap capabilities, as well as a separate Patriot Act provision that allows the FBI to obtain secret court orders to collect documents such as hotel and travel records during terrorism investigations, and which also would be affected by the deadline. Attorney General Loretta Lynch warned Wednesday against permitting the expiration of "vital and uncontroversial tools we use to combat terrorism and crime." But civil liberties lawyers say the FBI already has the tools it needs and haven't presented enough information to justify their use. The American Civil Liberties Union accuses intelligence officials and some in Congress of "scaremongering" about the Patriot Act and says the debated authorities give the government too much discretion in national security investigations. "Existing laws provide ample authority for the government to obtain information about individuals who are planning attacks of terrorism," ACLU lawyers wrote in a memo urging Congress to let the provisions expire. □



FBI director James Comey speaks at FBI headquarters in Washington. As Congress debates whether to renew a program that collects and stores American phone records, federal law enforcement officials are trying to focus public attention on the jeopardy to lesser-known surveillance tools that they consider more valuable in fighting terrorism. (AP Photo/ Evan Vucci)

a deadline to reach a last-minute agreement to renew a once-secret National Security Agency program that collects

also expire at midnight with the phone records program. FBI Director James Comey has called bulk phone col-

lection a useful tool to the FBI's counterterrorism efforts. But recently he has expressed more concern about being able to main-

Rand Paul blames Republican hawks for rise of ISIS

STEVE PEOPLES

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican presidential candidate Rand Paul is blaming his own party for the rise of the Islamic State group. The senator from Kentucky said Wednesday that the Republicans' foreign policy hawks "created these people." That assertion led potential 2016 rival Bobby Jindal, Louisiana's governor, to say Paul was unqualified to be president. The Islamic State group, commonly referred to as ISIS, has seized one-third of Iraq and Syria and in re-

cent days made gains in central Iraq. "ISIS exists and grew stronger because of the hawks in our party who gave arms indiscriminately," Paul said on MSNBC's "Morning Joe." He continued: "They created these people. ISIS is all over Libya because these same hawks in my party loved — they loved Hillary Clinton's war in Libya. They just wanted more of it." Foreign policy has emerged as a central debate in the 2016 Republican presidential primary. Many of Paul's Republican colleagues have offered

aggressive rhetoric, but few specifics when asked about IS. Paul favors less military intervention abroad, wants a dramatic reduction in U.S. money to foreign governments and stands in opposition to the Patriot Act and the U.S. policy behind drone strikes. It all makes him something of an outlier on foreign policy and national security in the GOP field. He stood apart from many in his party in opposing U.S. military action in Syria before the ascension of the Islamic State. Sensitive to being branded

an isolationist in the race, he has scaled back some of his positions, no longer calling for deep cuts in the Pentagon budget, for example, and no longer proposing the elimination of foreign aid, including to Israel. On the Islamic State, he wants coalitions of Arab troops — instead of U.S. troops — to take the lead on the ground. Paul's comments also underscore the challenge for former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, whose brother launched the invasion of Iraq more than a decade ago.

Jeb Bush faced pointed questions recently from a college student in the state of Nevada who said former President George W. Bush "created ISIS." The younger Bush does not blame his brother, but instead accuses the Obama administration of creating a void by withdrawing American forces, creating a vacuum in Iraq that was ultimately filled by the Islamic State group. In his interview earlier, Paul described Iraq as "a failed state" and criticized Republicans who condemn his foreign policy as weak. □

White House announces sweeping new rule limiting water pollution

CORAL DAVENPORT
© 2015 New York Times
WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama on Wednesday announced a sweeping new clean water regulation meant to restore the federal government's authority to limit pollution in the nation's rivers, lakes,

the Supreme Court, which in recent years has cast doubt on the government's authority to regulate certain waterways. Republicans in Congress point to the rule as another example of what they call executive overreach by the Obama administration.

Speaker John A. Boehner, R-Ohio, called the rule "a raw and tyrannical power grab that will crush jobs," adding, "House members of both parties have joined more than 30 governors and government leaders" to reject the rule. The EPA and the Army



Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency Gina McCarthy, speaks about climate change at the University of Chicago in Chicago. The Obama administration said Wednesday that it had finalized a major clean water regulation, written by the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers that would restore the government's authority to limit pollution.

(Joshua Lott/The New York Times)

streams and wetlands. The clean water rule, which would apply to about 60 percent of the nation's water bodies, comes as part of a broader effort by Obama to use his executive authority to build a major environmental legacy, without requiring new legislation from the Republican-controlled Congress. But it also opened up a broad new front for attacks from business interests like farmers, property developers, fertilizer and pesticide makers, oil and gas producers and golf course owners, who contend that the rule would stifle economic growth and intrude on property owners' rights. Industry groups, including the American Farm Bureau and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, are already preparing lawsuits to challenge the rule, and legal experts say the battle over control of the nation's waters could end up before

This summer, for example, the Environmental Protection Agency is expected to release a final set of regulations intended to counter climate change by limiting greenhouse gas pollution from power plants. Already, Republican lawmakers are advancing legislation on Capitol Hill meant to block or delay both the climate and clean water rules. In announcing the rule, Obama said, "One in three Americans now gets drinking water from streams lacking clear protection, and businesses and industries that depend on clean water face uncertainty and delay, which costs our economy every day. Too many of our waters have been left vulnerable to pollution." "With today's rule," he added, "we take another step towards protecting the waters that belong to all of us."

Corps of Engineers jointly proposed the rule, known as Waters of the United States, last spring. The agency has held more than 400 meetings about it with outside groups and read more than one million public comments as it wrote the final language. The rule is being issued under the 1972 Clean Water Act, which gave the federal government broad authority to limit pollution in major water bodies, like Chesapeake Bay, the Mississippi River and Puget Sound, as well as streams and wetlands that drain into those larger waters. But two Supreme Court decisions related to clean water protection, in 2001 and in 2006, created legal confusion about whether the federal government had the authority to regulate the smaller streams and headwaters, and about other water sources such as wetlands.□

Florida coasts have grown, but hurricane damage risk has not

MIKE SCHNEIDER
JENNIFER KAY
MELISSA GABRIEL
Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Since eight hurricanes whipped through Florida during back-to-back seasons a decade ago, causing \$33 billion in insurance claims, the state's coastal communities have added an additional 1.5 million people and almost a half-million new houses, an Associated Press analysis shows. But experts say the risk of catastrophic destruction hasn't grown along with the new development because Florida builders are doing a better job of making structures hurricane-resistant.

The improvement derives from Florida's statewide building code, which was implemented in 2002, a decade after Hurricane Andrew's 165-mph winds gutted parts of South Florida. The code means that all new structures get tough inspections and are built with shatter-proof glass and straps reinforcing the connection between roof and walls. More than two-thirds of Florida's almost 20 million residents live in coastal counties.

"The building code changes have made a huge difference," said Shahid Hamid, a professor at the International Hurricane Research Center at Florida International University. "You have more houses being built, and that certainly means more exposure and losses will go up, but on the other hand, the houses that are more recently built are better built and can perform better in hurricanes."

The stronger building standards haven't translated into reduced insurance premiums. Florida homeowners still pay about twice the national average for insurance, and rates in the Sunshine State are still the most ex-

pensive in the nation. Although Florida's building code hasn't been put to a widespread challenge, it did pass a limited test when Hurricane Wilma blew across the state in 2005. The hurricane made landfall in southwest Florida's Collier County, home to Naples, and then weakened as it chugged across the state toward Broward and Miami-Dade counties. Even though the hurricane was much fiercer in southwest Florida, Collier County only had \$408 million in claims compared to more than \$3 billion in Broward County and \$2 billion in Miami-Dade County. Collier County had much newer buildings that had been constructed using the code compared to the two South Florida counties, whose dwellings were significantly older.

In South Florida, the three counties that make up the region — Broward, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach — account for more than half of the \$337 billion increase in property values along Florida's coast in the last decade. The values of all properties in Florida's coastal counties reached \$1.5 trillion last year, according to AP calculations based on Florida Department of Revenue data.

Parks have been added between buildings and Biscayne Bay in Miami. The green spaces appeal to luxury home buyers looking for urban amenities within walking distance, but they also act as buffers against storm surge, said Carlos Rosso, whose Miami-based development company has built gleaming, waterfront condominium towers from Miami to Fort Lauderdale in recent years. "We are trying to create a little more conscientiousness about it," said Rosso, president of the condominium division of The Related Group.□



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US Financial Front: Drilling cutbacks drag down job growth in American oil patches

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hammered by cheaper oil, drilling firms have laid off workers and dragged job growth lower in states from Texas to North Dakota.

In Oklahoma, mining and logging jobs, which mostly include oil and gas drilling, fell for the fifth straight month in April. Texas lost 8,300 jobs in the sector, the most in six years, while Wyoming lost jobs in the industry for the fifth straight month. The figures, from a Labor Department report on state unemployment rates released Wednesday, show how the slowdown in the nation's energy sector is weighing on the economy. Oil prices plunged from about \$110 a barrel last June to below \$50 a barrel in January. They have since recovered a bit, to just below \$58 Wednesday.

A report on economic growth in the first quarter to be issued Friday is widely expected to show that the economy actually shrank from January through March. Steep reductions in spending by drilling companies on the rigs, steel pipe and other equipment needed for new wells are a big reason for the slowdown.

Overall, Texas gained 1,200 jobs in April, a small expansion compared to its average monthly increase of 34,000 last year. The state also lost jobs in construction and manufacturing. In March, Texas shed a total of 25,200 jobs, the most in

nearly six years.

Oklahoma added 4,200 jobs in April, after shedding 12,300 in March, also the most in six years.

North Dakota, which had benefited from an oil and gas drilling boom, has lost jobs in mining and logging for three straight months. Its unemployment rate, which had been the lowest nearly every month since the recession, rose to 3.1 percent, from 2.7 percent a year ago. Its rate is now the second-lowest, after Nebraska's.

Large oil and gas drilling companies have announced thousands of job cuts this year. Halliburton has said it has laid off 9,000 workers, more than 10 percent of its workforce, in the six months ending in March. Schlumberger has announced 20,000 job cuts since the beginning of the year, and Baker Hughes has said it would eliminate 7,000 jobs, or about 11 percent of its work force.

On a brighter note, Wednesday's report also showed that unemployment rates fell in 23 U.S. states in April as hiring rebounded nationwide.

The Labor Department said 11 states reported higher unemployment rates than in March, while 16 states saw no change. Forty states gained jobs, and 9 states posted job losses.

Nationwide, employers added a healthy 223,000 jobs in April, lowering the unemployment rate to a seven-year low of 5.4 percent. □



Job seekers fill out a job applications at a job fair in Miami Lakes, Fla. The Labor Department reported on state unemployment rates for April on Wednesday, May 27, 2015.

(AP Photo/Alan Diaz)



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or

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or

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American Living:

In a Changing Brooklyn, Shop Owners Decide to Call It Quits

VIVIAN YEE

© 2015 New York Times

NEW YORK - To hear some mourners of New York's late, great nostalgia-filled haunts tell it, the soul of the city is crumbling away. With every upward tick in the city's property values, the eternal lament goes, another rapacious landlord muscles out a neighborhood dive bar for a new bank, drugstore or gym. So what to make of John and Richard Zawisny, the owners of a South Park Slope classic - a Polish sausage and craft-beer emporium called Eagle Provisions that advertises, in blocky hand-painted letters, "Epicurean Delights From Around the World" -

that they are selling off and closing for good, and glad about it?

"I envisioned that after 35 years, we'd be like smooth sailing, and it's not smooth sailing," said John Zawisny, 62, who bought the business with his father and brother in 1979, back when the neighborhood was mostly Italian and Polish. But like some other mom-and-pop proprietors who have shut down or sold in recent years, the Zawisnys are not just tired of the long hours, the endless skirmishes with the Health Department and the stress. And they are not just looking to cash in. After decades of anchoring their neighborhoods, these business owners



Richard Zawisny is a co-owner of Eagle Provisions, a market that sells Polish meats, beer and other groceries in the South Park Slope section of Brooklyn in New York. After decades of anchoring a neighborhood, some business owners have found that they no longer quite belong.

(Nicole Bengiveno/The New York Times)

ers have found that they no longer quite belong.

"It's part of the hypergentrification process," said Jeremiah Moss, who eulogizes the city's fallen businesses on the blog Vanishing New York. "It's harder to see it, because it looks on the surface like they're just cashing in and they're making a decision to retire and they'll have a pile of money and that may be wonderful. But would it be happening if the neighborhood hadn't changed so dramatically?"

Moss, who uses a pseudonym and will not divulge his real name, can recall a few other exceptions to the usual tale of landlord versus tenant. There was the original Manganaro's in Hell's Kitchen, a venerable Italian grocery whose owners closed down in 2012 after 119 years in business, saying they were simply tired of struggling against a bad economy and a changing neighborhood. There was

De Robertis Pasticceria and Caffè, the 110-year-old Italian bakery in the East Village whose owners sold the building last year for a reported \$12 million.

In South Slope, the Zawisnys said they were bowing to pressures inside and out. The Polish regulars who came for sauerkraut, sausage and Old World-style dark bread have moved to Staten Island, New Jersey and farther afield. And though the Zawisnys added a selection of about 2,000 craft beers from around the world to attract younger customers, it has been hard to keep up.

The other ethnic groceries on Fifth Avenue shuttered long ago. And John Zawisny wanted to retire after having a stroke a few years ago.

A developer is building apartments on what used to be a parking lot at the end of the block; now it will do the same with the Eagle property.

In Williamsburg, where new luxury apartment buildings and upscale chain stores have swept an increasingly affluent demographic into the north side of the neighborhood, the owners of Teddy's Bar & Grill, a 19th-century brewery outpost turned Polish watering hole turned artists' spot turned neighborhood tavern, have decided to bow out.

Their children showed little interest in inheriting the business, they said, and after nearly 30 years, they needed a break and a few fresh minds to reinvent the restaurant for an area that has become a playground for the affluent. More than a century after opening, Teddy's Bar & Grill was sold to new owners this year.

In Sheepshead Bay, a developer bought the El Greco Diner - the kind of place that became locally indispensable for offering hearty portions to all comers, at all hours - for \$13 million last year, planning to build condominiums. The building was demolished this spring.

For four decades, it was the Venetoklis family livelihood, the business around which Anastasia Venetoklis' life, and those of her sons, came to revolve. But the constant strain of running the business had worn them down. Hurricane Sandy, in 2012, flooded the basement and closed the restaurant for weeks. And they had a buyer. They let it go.

"We wanted to say goodbye to El Greco standing up," Venetoklis said. "We didn't want to give it up and see it fading away for someone who will not take care of it." □

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Islamic State suicide attacks in Iraq's Anbar kill 17 troops

SINAN SALAHEDDIN
Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — As Iraqi forces gathered for a major new offensive to try to take back the sprawling Sunni heartland of Anbar province, Islamic State militants struck first, unleashing a wave of suicide bombings that killed at least 17 soldiers.

The attacks outside the extremist-held city of Fallujah came just hours after the Iraqi government announced the start of a wide-scale operation to recapture areas under Islamic State control in the vast desert province that stretches to the border with Jordan.

The militants used a sandstorm that engulfed most of Iraq to launch the deadly wave of bombings late Tuesday night, Brig. Gen. Saad Maan Ibrahim, the spokesman for the Joint Military Command, told The Associated Press.

He said it was not clear how many suicide attackers were involved in the bombings but they struck from multiple directions at the Iraqi troops, who were gathered near a water control station and a lock system on a canal between the Euphrates River and Lake Tharthar as they prepared to deploy.

Last month, the water station near Fallujah fell into the hands of the militants following attacks that also included multiple suicide bombings that killed a general commanding the 1st Division and a dozen other officers and soldiers, Ibrahim said.

Iraqi government forces retook the station a few days later. Fallujah lies to the east of the Anbar provincial capital of Ramadi, which was captured 10 days ago by the Islamic State militants in a major defeat for Iraqi troops.

The military, humiliated last year when it crumbled in the face of the militant onslaught in the city of Mosul, had regained some momentum after its victory in Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit last month. The campaign to retake Anbar, which is said to be backed by Shiite militias and pro-government Sunni fighters, is deemed critical in regaining momentum in the fight against the Islamic State group.

The capture of Ramadi, followed only days later by the fall of the ancient Syrian town of Palmyra, showed the Islamic State group's ability to advance



U.S. soldiers prepare to participate in a training mission with Iraqi Army soldier, right, outside Baghdad, Iraq, Wednesday, May 27, 2015. Islamic State extremists unleashed a wave of suicide attacks targeting the Iraqi army in western Anbar province, killing at least 17 troops in a major blow to government efforts to dislodge the militants from the sprawling Sunni heartland, an Iraqi military spokesman said Wednesday.

(AP Photo/Khalid Mohammed)

in both countries despite months of U.S.-led airstrikes. Capt. Andrew Caulk, a U.S. Air Force spokesman in Qa-

tar, told the AP it will continue to provide air support "to government-controlled Iraqi forces" throughout

the country, including near Ramadi, where it has been carrying out airstrikes for several months. □

Saudi-led airstrikes in Sanaa kill 45 in Yemen

AHMED AL-HAJ
Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — Saudi-led airstrikes struck a headquarters for police commandos in Yemen's capital Wednesday, killing at least 45 people gathered there to prepare to fight against forces loyal to the country's exiled president, Shiite rebels said. Hundreds had been gathered at the site, close to Sanaa's presidential palace, to receive weapons while others loitered in the grass and under trees before the strike, three men there told

The Associated Press. There also were militiamen there from the ranks of the Shiite rebels, known as Houthis, many of them wearing traditional Yemeni clothes, they said. The bombs and missiles demolished at least three buildings in the complex, damaged armored vehicles and set weapons depots ablaze, many having explosions for at least an hour afterward.

The Houthi-controlled Health Ministry said in a statement that the strikes killed at least 45 members of the security forces and

wounded at least 286. The main Houthi satellite news channel gave a similar death toll, saying it was expected to rise.

The three men, along with security officials describing the attack, spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to journalists.

Across the country Wednesday, the ministry said violence killed another 96 people and wounded 276, without breaking down civilian casualties.

Witnesses said jets also bombed a naval base

in the western Hodeida province controlled by the Houthis. Saudi and allied jets also bombed the northern Houthi strongholds of Saada and Hajjah, witnesses said.

The attacks are part a military campaign launched March 26 to try and restore internationally recognized President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, now living in exile in neighboring Saudi Arabia. The strikes target the Houthis and their allies, which include forces loyal to ousted President Ali Abdullah. □

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Greece says deal with bailout creditors is close

NICHOLAS PAPHITIS

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) —

Greece's prime minister said Wednesday that his country is close to reaching a deal with bailout creditors, prompting European stock markets to jump on hopes of a breakthrough in the slow-moving, often acrimonious talks.

Alexis Tsipras spoke shortly before Greek negotiators were due to meet in Brussels with representatives of the bailout creditors — whose cash has kept Greece from bankruptcy for the past five years.

"We have taken very many steps. We are in the home stretch, close to the final agreement," Tsipras told reporters, after a meeting at the finance ministry in Athens.

"I believe that very soon we will be able to present new information."

But he warned stumbling blocks remain, as Greece is dealing with three different creditor institutions — the International Monetary Fund, European Commission and European Central



Greece's Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, right, is welcomed by Finance Minister, Yanis Varoufakis, during his visit at the Finance Ministry in Athens Wednesday, May 27, 2015. Tsipras said Wednesday that his country is close to reaching a deal with bailout creditors.

(Costas Baltas/InTime News via AP)

Bank — "that have often conflicting opinions."

Greek and European stocks rallied earlier Wednesday when government officials said negotiators will start drafting a staff-level agreement with bailout creditors in Brussels to unlock aid that would allow the country to make

a debt repayment as soon as next week.

The main Athens stock index rallied to close up 3.6 percent, with most of the gains registered just before closing. Other European markets also posted gains, with Germany's up 1.3 percent and France's bouncing 2.1 percent. Ear-

lier, a Greek government official said the putative deal would include debt-restructuring, sales tax reforms, balanced budgets and a cut in early retirements. The official, who spoke on customary condition of anonymity, insisted it would not involve further pension or salary cuts. □

Dutch police hold motorcycle gang members in raids

MIKE CORDER

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

(AP) — Dutch police detained 20 people Wednesday, 14 of them members of the Bandidos motorcycle gang, and seized weapons including five rocket-propelled grenade launchers and six automatic handguns.

The discoveries came in a coordinated series of raids involving riot police, specialist arrest squads and a police helicopter that targeted 30 locations in the southern Netherlands and also spread into neighboring Belgium and Germany. Maastricht Mayor Onno Hoes said police "took tough action that was absolutely necessary to restore public order" in a region that has been plagued in recent months by violence blamed on rival motorcycle gangs.

Police and prosecutors said that members of motorcycle gangs are "heavily involved in criminal ... activity in the areas of weapons, drugs and intimidation."

The 19 men and one woman detained Wednesday are suspected of crimes including drug trafficking, extortion and money laundering, prosecutor Roger Bos said at a news conference.

As well as the weapons and large amounts of ammunition, police uncovered a drug laboratory, chemicals used to make synthetic drugs, counterfeit money, stolen cars and a cannabis plantation, Limburg police chief Gery Veldhuis said. □

G-7 leaders meet to discuss how to help growth

DAVID McHUGH

Associated Press

DRESDEN, Germany (AP) —

Top finance officials from the Group of Seven wealthy democracies are gathering in Germany this week to discuss ways to strengthen the global economy.

U.S. officials are pressing countries such as Germany that have strong finances to invest more to stimulate their economies. They're urging European leaders to

find a solution to Greece's financial problems and will seek ways to cut off financing for extremist organizations such as the Islamic State group.

Ahead of the meeting, activists urging more help for poor countries floated large balloons bearing the faces of government leaders next to Dresden's historic Frauenkirche, or Church of Our Lady, urging the meeting to produce more than "hot air."

Officials from host country Germany, which has the rotating leadership of the G-7, said the meeting over three days through Friday was envisioned as a relaxed discussion forum to set up decisions and positions to be taken at a June 7-8 summit of heads of state and government at the Schloss Elmau resort outside Munich.

The finance officials were to meet over dinner Wednesday evening. The

first formal working sessions were scheduled for Thursday. The United States, represented by Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew, has pressed for countries running trade and budget surpluses to do more to stimulate economic demand. Germany, which is running a large trade surplus and has balanced its budget, has firmly resisted calls to relax its budget discipline, saying avoiding new debt is the prudent course. □



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Venezuela:

Planned march shows cracks in opposition movement

HANNAH DREIER
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— One of Venezuela's most high-profile politicians has called an anti-government march on Saturday, but the main opposition coalition is not endorsing the protest, underscoring fissures among critics of the country's socialist government.

In a recording leaked from his prison cell over the weekend, former Mayor Leopoldo Lopez asked people unhappy with the administration of President Nicolas Maduro to take to the streets for a massive, peaceful demonstration to demand releasing political prisoners and scheduling a legislative election.

The Harvard-educated Lopez, who represents the more radical wing of the opposition, has been jailed for 15 months in connection with a bloody street protest movement that swept Venezuela in the spring of 2014. On Tuesday, the coalition that includes Lopez's party said it would not en-

dorse the rally because it had been unable to reach a consensus under the circumstances. The statement suggested the difficulty of coordinating with an imprisoned leader, though even when he was free, Lopez clashed with other opposition politicians about the wisdom of big street protests.

Lopez and fellow jailed former mayor Daniel Ceballos say they launched a hunger strike last weekend to protest what they see as creeping authoritarianism. Human rights groups consider many of the jailed opposition politicians in Venezuela political prisoners, though the government says they are justly imprisoned on criminal charges including incitement to violence and disturbing the peace.

Government officials have said Lopez is still eating, but the men's families affirmed Tuesday that they really have stopped.

"Their hunger strike represents the suffering of all Venezuelans," Lopez's



Lilian Tintori, the wife of jailed opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez speaks during a press conference in Caracas, Venezuela. Tintori said her husband who is imprisoned at the Ramo Verde military prison started a hunger strike last Sunday to demand the release of political prisoners and the definition of the date for parliamentary elections.

(AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos)

wife, Lilian Tintori, said.

Lopez has been kept al-

most mostly out of public

sight since his arrest in Feb-

ruary 2014. It's a striking contrast to the two years the late President Hugo Chavez spent in prison after a failed coup in 1992. The socialist leader regularly received guests and gave television interviews. Despite the coalition stand, moderate opposition leader Henrique Capriles, who came close to beating Maduro in the 2013 presidential election, said Wednesday that he planned to attend.

"In support of freedom for our companions who are political prisoners, I'm going to participate without seeking to divide," he wrote on his Twitter account. □

Colombian rebel negotiator among dead in military raid

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)

— Leftist rebels in Colombia are claiming that one of their envoys to peace talks with the government has been killed during a military raid.

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia say in a statement issued Wednesday said the man known by the alias Jairo Martinez was among 27 rebel fighters killed during an attack on a guerrilla camp in southwest

Colombia last week.

He had been a close confidant of the FARC's ruling Secretariat and was recently seen in Havana advising negotiators trying to bring an end to Colombia's half-century conflict.

The FARC says Martinez was visiting troops to discuss progress at the peace talks when they were surprised by the air and ground assault. Martinez's real name is Pedro Nel Daza. □



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Cheap motorbikes bring opportunity and chaos to Haiti

DAVID McFADDEN

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti

(AP) — Joseph-Marc Carel knows the danger of ferrying passengers on his small motorbike, sometimes two at a time, as fides of the buzzing vehicles cut through the chaotic Haitian capital. He has a prosthetic leg to prove it.

Carel would like to find a job that's safer than driving a two-wheeled taxi in Port-au-Prince, but he knows he's unlikely to find one that pays anything close to the \$50 a week he can earn with his battered motorbike.

"It doesn't look good," he said, gesturing at the shattered reflectors and dented red gas tank as he revved the sputtering engine, "but it's mine."

Cheap motorbikes such as the one that transformed this 24-year-old into an entrepreneur, and cost him his right leg in a 2011 accident, are seen by some as an economic lifeline and by others as a scourge of the streets.

The Chinese-made vehicles began to flourish after Haiti's devastating earthquake of 2010, when foreign aid workers brought them in as part of their disaster-relief efforts. Port-au-Prince now is flooded with the small-engine Jialing, Lifan or Jeely models, which can be bought new for about \$800 or leased from middlemen.

Motorbikes provide one of the most efficient ways to navigate the unpredictable and rutted streets of the teeming capital. But

general hospital between April 2014 and February 2015. Emergency room administrators say they rarely saw victims of such acci-

without a word.

"A lot of these moto drivers are crazy," Morissette said while her young son rested his head on her shoulder

is easy to understand in Haiti. Cars and SUVs often cost twice the price of a new vehicle in the United States and, in any case, are out of reach for most people.

According to the World Bank, 59 percent of Haitians live on less than \$2.44 a day and 24 percent make do with less than half of that.

Even so, the Port-au-Prince area is a traffic nightmare, with SUVs, rumbling trucks and colorfully painted bus-pickups known as "tap taps" competing for space. A trip from the airport to the hillside community of Petionville just a few miles (kilometers) away can take two hours by car.

On a motorcycle, the fearless can dart through long lines of vehicles and make it in a fraction of the time.

Motorbikes were available in Haiti before the earthquake but they mostly were seen in rural towns, commonly used to carry all types of cargo, including live chickens and pigs, or towing items like rebar, bamboo poles and even wooden coffins from the back.

The motorcycles have been critical during Haiti's ongoing cholera outbreak, often serving as the only way to get aid to people in remote corners.

And they now make up nearly 45 percent of Haiti's underdeveloped public transportation system, according to official estimates. □



Motorcycle taxis ride in the traffic clogged streets carrying passengers in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The Chinese-made vehicles began to flourish after Haiti's devastating earthquake of 2010, when foreign aid workers brought them in as part of their disaster-relief efforts.

(AP Photo/Dieu Nalio Chery)

with regulation largely nonexistent, the combination of inexperienced drivers, general lawlessness and packed roadways has resulted in a big jump in accidents.

Dr. Bermann Augustin, an orthopedic surgery resident at the Hospital of the State University of Haiti, found in a recent study that motorbikes were involved in nearly 80 percent of all road accidents that sent patients to Port-au-Prince's main

dents before the quake.

"This has become a big public health problem in Haiti and it's getting worse," Augustin said.

From her hospital bed in Port-au-Prince, food vendor St. Helene Morissette bitterly describes the accident that fractured her ankle. She was attempting to scurry across a road when a speeding motorbike taxi slammed into her. While she screamed in agony, the driver zipped away

and a daughter counted cash needed to buy medicine.

The Haitian National Police says its officers are trying to crack down on unregistered motorbike operators. But with as many as 500,000 motorbikes on the streets in the greater Port-au-Prince area, traffic division Inspector Jean Yves Pierre acknowledged that authorities are struggling to keep up.

The appeal of a motorbike

Puerto Rico lawmakers give final nod to sales tax increase

DANICA COTO

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico

(AP) — Legislators this week narrowly approved an increase in the U.S. territory's sales tax to help generate more revenue and offset a deep fiscal crisis.

Gov. Alejandro Garcia Padilla is expected to sign the bill that would increase the tax from 7 percent to 11.5 percent, as well as create a new 4 percent tax on professional services. The sales tax increase would go into effect July 1 and the new tax on Oct. 1, with a transition to a value-added

tax by April 1.

If approved, it would be the highest sales tax compared with any U.S. state.

Officials said the proposed increase could help generate \$1.2 billion in revenue as Puerto Rico struggles through its eighth year of recession and faces a \$72 billion public debt. Officials previously warned the government could shut down soon if emergency measures were not taken.

The approval ends a months-long heated debate where legislators rejected other proposals to generate money including

a 14 percent value-added tax as the U.S. territory's economic crisis worsened.

If Garcia signs the measure, it will help Puerto Rico access the market and issue up to \$2.95 billion in bonds as planned, said economist Jose Villamil, a former U.N. consultant and CEO of an economic and planning consulting firm. But government officials still need to take other steps to help boost the economy, including implementing a tax reform, he said in a phone interview. "Clearly, the fiscal situation will not be solved by this bill," he said, adding

that the sales tax increase could have been lower had legislators approved it earlier this year.

"We would be in a much better position today," he said. "A lot of important revenue was lost during that time." he measure received the minimum 26 votes needed in the island's House of Representatives after the Senate narrowly approved it with amendments on Monday.

Resident Commissioner Pedro Pierluisi of the main opposition party said the measure would have a negative impact on Puerto

Rico's economy.

"It will kill your own pocket and our economy little by little," he said. "This new tax will keep leading to closures and lost jobs."

Legislators are now expected to debate a proposed \$9.8 billion budget that calls for \$674 million in cuts. It also sets aside \$1.5 billion to help pay off Puerto Rico's debt, an increase of \$400 million from the current fiscal budget. The government has announced that it plans to close nearly 100 schools and 20 public agencies in a bid to save money and cut costs. □

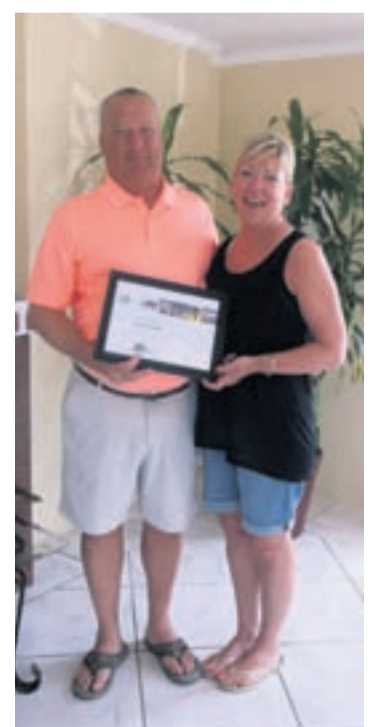


Loyal Visitors Honored by the Aruba Tourism Authority!



PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring several very nice families who are loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba, at the Renaissance Resort, Paradise Beach Villas, and La Quinta Resort, as Distinguished Visitors and Ambassadors of Goodwill! The symbolic honorary titles are presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 and 20-to-34 consecutive years. The honorees were Mr. Luc and Mrs. Monique Even, together with son Pim and

daughter Sophie, Mr. Edward and Mrs. Jane Marie Lunden, and Mr. Paul and Mrs. Anne Kipetz. The honorees love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the weather, the beaches and the restaurants, and because being on Aruba is like being in paradise for them! The certificates were presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 and 20-to-34 consecutive years. The honorees were Mr. Luc and Mrs. Monique Even, together with son Pim and



Loyal Visitors to Aruba Honored at the Marriott Ocean Club!



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the Marriott Ocean Club as Distinguished Visitors and Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary titles are presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 and 20-to-34 consecutive years. The honorees were Mrs. Donna Cosolito, Mrs. Lu-

anne Montalbano, Mrs. Debra Hefferman, and Mrs. Margaret Palermo, all hailing from Staten Island, New York! The honorees are loyal members of the Marriott Ocean Club and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the weather, the beaches and the restaurants, and

because being on Aruba and staying at the Marriott Ocean Club is paradise for them! The certificates were presented by Ms. Darline S. de Cuba representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Ms. Christina Leo, Sales and Marketing Coordinator at the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino. □

Moynihan Family Honored by Aruba Tourism Authority!



EAGLE BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure

of honoring a very nice couple who are loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba as



Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-to-34 consecutive years.

The honorees were Mr. Dennis and Mrs. Carole Moynihan from Revere Massachusetts. Dennis and Carole love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the safety, the weather, the

beaches, the restaurants and the casinos. The certificate was presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with resort representative Mrs. Jealda Damian. □



Ricky & Lee Ann will be back for more MooMba Beach's burgers

PALM BEACH - They needed a few moments to determine what they liked most of the menu card at MooMba Beach, but Ricky and Lee Ann Wright finally both choose the MooMba Burgers. Actually, they loved everything, they said, but they had to make a choice. The couple from Virginia Beach, USA, has been coming to Aruba on a yearly base for the past eleven years and every single day they come to MooMba, the place they found MooMba by sheer luck and have loved the restaurant and bar ever since.

Ricki and Lee Ann love to snorkel, and they would recommend that to everyone. If you were to ask them what the world should know about the Wrights, without hesitation they will tell you; "We love Aruba!" Isn't that great? □



Karen & Cheryl Enjoy Tango Argentine Grill

PALM BEACH - Two gorgeous, single girls from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, wowed the staff of Tango Argentine Grill at the Arwak Garden last week, when they came to dinner. On the island for the Soul Beach Festival, Karen and Cheryl flew to Aruba in the company of 24 friends, all of them 50 years old. Enjoying the music, the great vibes and the weather, the group had a wonderful time on the island; Karen and Cheryl had an even better time, as they found Tango Restaurant.

What did they order, you ask? Well, they started out with lobster bisque and followed it with the grilled Portobello mushrooms and the calamari.

Dear Karen and Cheryl, everyone at Tango was



bowled over by your charm and friendliness. And that is why they are sending a big hug your way and

hope you will come back soon. Don't wait till next year's Soul Beach Festival, please! □



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Masha Danki!

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On behalf of the resort and Aruba, we thank each of you for your commitment to providing a most enjoyable experience to our island's guests.

~ Ewald Biemans and Resort Management



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The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba, Awarded Top Caribbean Hotel by Luxury Travel Advisor

PALM BEACH - The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba, was recently recognized as the top hotel in the Caribbean during the recent, annual Luxury Travel Advisor Awards of Excellence event held during the Luxury Travel ULTRA Summit in Orlando, Florida. The hotel was also recognized as a top hotel opening in 2014. "On behalf of the ladies and gentlemen of The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba we are pleased to share the news of this prestigious award that exemplifies our commitment to provide legendary service combined with the extraordinary warmth of the Aruban culture," remarked Steven Redkoles, general manager of the hotel.

Luxury Travel Advisor's ULTRA is an exclusive, invitation-only, summit focused on the luxury travel market. The annual event brings together world-class travel buyers with the most opulent, ultra-luxury suppliers in



the industry to cultivate collaboration, share insights and help drive the luxury

travel industry into the future. The annual Awards of Excellence recognizes

the top luxury suppliers in the travel industry. The honorees will also be fea-

tured in an upcoming edition of Luxury Travel Advisor magazine. □

Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

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ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fisherman of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad. Driftwood owner Herby

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AL Capsules

Teixeira drives in 4 runs, Yankees beat Royals 5-1

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Mark Teixeira homered and drove in four runs, Adam Warren pitched two-hit ball into the seventh inning and the New York Yankees beat the Kansas City Royals 5-1 Tuesday night to send the AL champions to their first three-game skid this season.

Warren (3-3) was perfect until Mike Moustakas beat out a hit to second baseman Stephen Drew on the outfield grass in right-center with one out in the fourth. The only other hit he allowed was Paulo Orlando's first major league homer in the sixth.

Lifted after 6 1-3 innings, Warren struck out five without walking a batter in the best of his 12 big league starts.

Teixeira was the only Yankees' starter without a hit during their 14-1 rout of Kansas City on Monday, which stopped a six-game losing streak. He more than made up as New York won consecutive games for the first time since May 10-11.

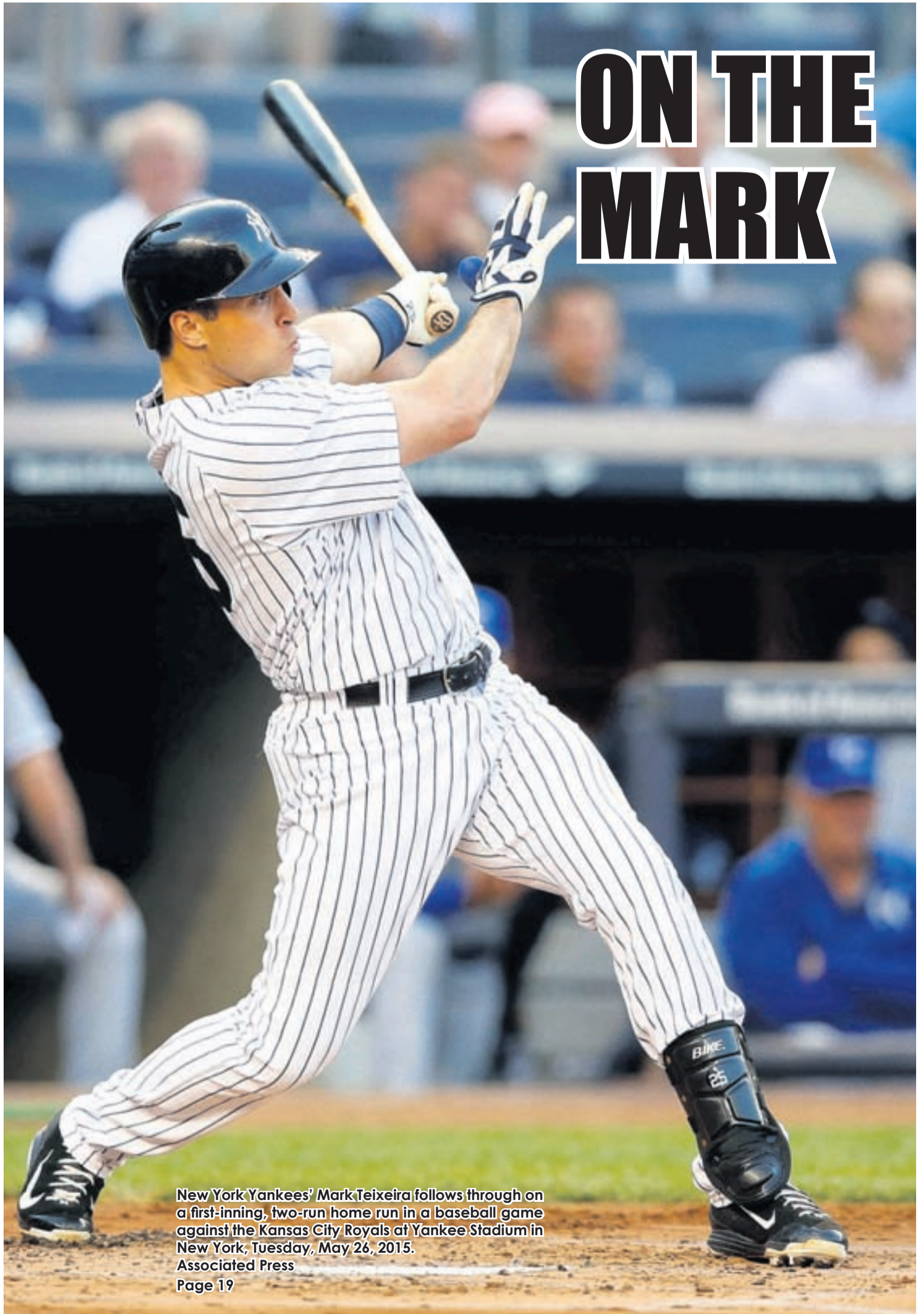
ASTROS 4, ORIOLES

BALTIMORE (AP) — Scott Feldman outpitched Chris Tillman, Chris Carter keyed a seventh-inning rally and Houston beat Baltimore for its 10th win in 13 games.

Luis Valbuena had two hits and two RBIs for the Astros, who scored all their runs with two outs.

Feldman (4-4) gave up one run and four hits in six innings against his former team. The right-hander was 5-6 in his lone season with the Orioles (2013) but is 4-0 with a 2.41 ERA lifetime against them in Baltimore.

ON THE MARK



New York Yankees' Mark Teixeira follows through on a first-inning, two-run home run in a baseball game against the Kansas City Royals at Yankee Stadium in New York, Tuesday, May 26, 2015.

Associated Press

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Russell double gives Cubs 3-2 win vs. Nationals

The Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Addison Russell hit a game-ending RBI double in the ninth inning, and Chicago beat surging Washington.

Chris Coghlan started the winning rally with a one-out single against Matt Grace (2-1). The Cubs then caught a huge break when shortstop Ian Desmond threw wide to first while trying to turn a potential double play on pinch-hitter Jonathan Herrera's grounder to second. That extended the inning, and Russell lined a 1-0 pitch beyond center fielder Denard Span's reach for his third hit of the game.

That made a winner of Hector Rondon (3-0), who worked a scoreless ninth.

CARDINALS 6, DIAMONDBACKS 4

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Jaime Garcia won for the first time in nearly a year, working six solid innings, and Randal Grichuk homered to help St. Louis beat Arizona.

Grichuk and Jhonny Peralta had two RBIs each for the Cardinals, who are a major league-best 30-16. Garcia (1-1) hadn't won since June 15 at home against the Nationals.

Rookie Yasmany Tomas had two doubles and three RBIs for Arizona, but also made two big outs. He struck out against Matt Belisle with the bases loaded to end the seventh and hit a ground ball for the final out with the tying runs in scoring position against Seth Maness, who earned his third save in four chances.

Nick Ahmed homered for the Diamondbacks, who have lost eight of their last nine against St. Louis.

GIANTS 6, BREWERS 3

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Madison Bumgarner won another



Chicago Cubs' Anthony Rizzo, left, hugs Addison Russell after Russell's game winning double off Washington Nationals relief pitcher Matt Grace during the ninth inning of a baseball game Tuesday, May 26, 2015, in Chicago. Jonathan Herrera scored on the play giving the Cubs a 3-2 win.

The Associated Press

game in May and three San Francisco players homered in a 6-3 victory over Milwaukee.

Bumgarner (6-2) gave up four hits and three earned runs in six innings to improve to 5-1 in his last six starts. He's also 9-1 in May the last two seasons.

Matt Duffy, Hunter Pence and Brandon Belt hit home runs and Santiago Casilla earned his 13th save for San Francisco, now 10-2 in its last 12 games.

Milwaukee lost its fourth straight and is 1-6 over the last seven.

Matt Garza (2-7) struggled again, allowing eight hits and five earned runs in five innings. The right-hander has lost his last four decisions, owns just one victory in his last eight starts and is 0-4 at Miller Park.

DODGERS 8, BRAVES 0

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Clayton Kershaw combined

with two relievers on a five-hitter and capped a six-run fourth inning with an RBI single, Adrian Gonzalez notched his 1,000th RBI with a two-run homer, and Los Angeles beat Atlanta.

Kershaw (3-3) allowed four hits, struck out 10 and walked none while lowering his ERA to 3.86. The reigning NL MVP and three-time Cy Young Award winner is 16-0 with a 1.21 ERA in his last 20 starts against NL East teams.

Julio Teheran (4-2) gave up eight runs and 10 hits in 4 1-3 innings against the two-time defending NL West champions, who have won four of five after getting swept in a three-game series at San Francisco by a combined margin of 10-0.

PIRATES 5, MARLINS 1

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Jeff Locke worked into the sixth inning in his first win in more than a month, and Pitts-

burgh beat reeling Miami. Locke (3-2) struck out six and walked four in 5 2/3 shutout innings for his first victory this season against a team other than last-place Milwaukee. Neil Walker hit a two-run homer in Pittsburgh's fifth straight win, and Josh Harrison and Jung Ho Kang had two hits apiece.

Miami rookie Jose Urena (0-1) failed to make it out of the fifth inning in his first big league start, giving up five runs in 4 2/3 innings. Martin Prado's RBI double produced the only run for the Marlins. Christian Yelich added two hits for Miami,

which fell to 2-7 under manager Dan Jennings.

METS 5, PHILLIES 4, 10 INNING

NEW YORK (AP) — Wilmer Flores singled home the winning run with two outs in the 10th inning for his second huge hit in two days, giving New York a victory over Philadelphia.

The Mets pulled it out after Jacob deGrom and the bullpen blew a three-run lead in the eighth, improving to 19-6 at home this season. They have won seven consecutive series against the Phillies, beating their NL East rivals 19 times in the past 24 meetings. □

Alberto Contador keeps Giro lead, Sacha Modolo wins stage 17



Italy's Sacha Modolo celebrates as he crosses the finish line to win the 17th stage of the Giro d'Italia, Tour of Italy cycling race from Tirano to Lugano, Switzerland, Wednesday, May 27, 2015.

Associated Press

LUGANO, Switzerland (AP)

— Alberto Contador maintained his grip on the overall lead of the Giro d'Italia, while Sacha Modolo won a bunch sprint at the end of the 17th stage on Wednesday for his second victory in this year's race.

A superb leadout from Modolo's Lampre-Merida team saw him beat Giacomo Nizzolo by a bike length to win the 134-kilometer (83-mile) leg from Tirano to Lugano, Switzerland, which featured just one Category

3 climb.

Nizzolo edged out Luka Mezgec on the line.

"I looked around on the hill about 4K from the finish and I saw that my rivals were maybe more tired than me," Modolo said. "Yesterday was very difficult but I had good legs, today was nice and warm — my ideal day."

"Max Richeze and Roberto Ferrari have shown they are one of the best leadout trains around. I don't fear anyone." □

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Texeira

Continued from page 17

Luke Gregerson worked a perfect ninth for his 13th save.

Tillman (2-6) allowed two runs and five hits over seven innings. He hasn't won since April 18 and has dropped five straight decisions, tying a career high.

TIGERS 1, ATHLETICS 0
OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — David Price outdueled Jesse Chavez to win for the first time in four starts, and Detroit bounced back from a shutout a day earlier to beat Oakland.

Price (4-1) gave up five hits, struck out three and walked one in seven innings for a third straight winning decision, but his first victory since May 2 at Kansas City.

Former A's outfielder Rajai Davis hit a sacrifice fly in the first against Chavez (1-5). Slugger Miguel Cabrera returned to the Tigers lineup after sitting out Monday and extended his hitting streak to 13 games with a

ninth-inning single.

Plate umpire Jeff Kellogg took a ball in the mask in the ninth but stayed in the game after being checked, and then a fan ran onto the field to cause another delay.

MARINERS 7, RAYS 6, 10 IN-NINGS

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Kyle Seager hit a grand slam in the eighth inning and a game-winning home run in the 10th to lift Seattle to a victory over Tampa Bay.

The game-winner, Seager's 10th home run of the season, came off Brad Boxberger (2-2) after the Rays had rallied for three runs to tie the game in the ninth.

Seager's eighth-inning slam off Jake McGee had given the Mariners a 6-3 lead. Seager drove in six runs with three hits and extended his hitting streak to 12 games.

Evan Longoria's bases-loaded double off the top of the wall, his third hit of the game, drove in two of the ninth-inning runs.

The Rays' fourth straight

loss dropped them a half-game behind the New York Yankees in the AL East.

Fernando Rodney (2-2) got the win after giving up the three runs in the ninth. Joe Beimel pitched the 10th for his first save.

PADRES 4, ANGELS 0, 10 IN-NINGS

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Matt Kemp hit a three-run double down the left-field line with two outs in the 10th inning, and San Diego beat Los Angeles.

Kemp equaled his RBI total from his previous 15 games with one big hit for the Padres, who broke open a scoreless game by batting around in the extra inning to win for just the second time in seven games.

Jedd Gyorko snapped an 0-for-13 skid with a single leading off the 10th against Joe Smith (1-2). After Yangervis Solarte and Will Venable walked, Smith struck out Justin Upton before Kemp put his drive into the corner, clearing the bases.

Derek Norris then scored Kemp with a single off Vin-



New York Yankees' Mark Teixeira watches his fifth-inning, two-run double in a baseball game against the Kansas City Royals at Yankee Stadium in New York, Tuesday, May 26, 2015. At left is Royals catcher Salvador Perez.

Associated Press

ny Pestano.

RANGERS 4, INDIANS 3

CLEVELAND (AP) — Mitch Moreland hit a tiebreaking homer in the eighth inning, and Texas beat Cleveland for its seventh consecutive victory.

Prince Fielder also connected for a three-run shot as the Rangers (23-23) got back to .500 for the first time since the sixth game

of the season. Fielder is batting .583 (14 for 24) with five homers and 15 RBIs in his last five games.

Moreland's fifth homer came on a 2-0 pitch from Nick Hagadone (0-1) with one out.

Josh Hamilton, playing his second game of the season for Texas, was hitless in four at-bats and is 0 for 7 in his return to the Rangers. □

LeBron, Cavaliers earn NBA Finals spot by sweeping Hawks

TOM WITHERS

AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) — The championship LeBron James craves more than any other, the one he came back home to get, is within reach after Cleveland routed Atlanta 118-88 on Tuesday to complete a series sweep and secure its place in the NBA Finals. James scored 23 points and Kyrie Irving provided a boost after missing two games as Cleveland cruised to victory and set up a meeting with either Golden State or Houston. It is only the second time the Cavaliers have made it to the Finals, but the fifth straight visit for James, who returned to Cleveland this season after four successful years with Miami. None of Cleveland's top sports teams — in the NBA, NFL or MLB — have won a title since 1964. The Cavaliers are four wins from ending that drought, and if they can, James will have a title that would put him in a class by himself. Other players have won more championships, but none has ever done it for his success-starved home region. "We have everything it takes to win," James said after the Cavs were presented with the conference trophy. However, they've got their



Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James reacts on the sidelines late in the second half of Game 4 of the NBA basketball Eastern Conference Finals against the Atlanta Hawks, Tuesday, May 26, 2015, in Cleveland.

Associated Press

eyes on more than the Eastern Conference crown. "Cleveland," owner Dan Gilbert said, addressing the crowd. "We're not settling for this." Jeff Teague scored 17 and Paul Millsap 16 for Atlanta, which won a team-record 60 games during the regular season and made the

conference finals for the first time since 1970. But the Hawks were no match for the Cavaliers and had no answer for James, who nearly averaged a triple-double in the four games. J.R. Smith added 18 points and Tristan Thompson had 16 points and 11 rebounds for the Cavs.

Unlike 2007, when James celebrated at the final horn, he was very business-like after the clock hit zero. Standing at center court, he turned to Smith and said "four more."

It was a tough way for the Hawks to end a remarkable season. They survived a tumultuous offseason, and their young roster gelled in January when they became the first franchise to go 17-0 in a calendar month. They went on to win 19 straight, improved their win-loss record by 22 wins over last season and beat Brooklyn and Washington in the playoffs to make their first conference finals since 1994.

But an injury to starting forward Thabo Sefolosha in April was followed by DeMarre Carroll injuring his knee in the series opener, before Kyle Korver's season ended in Game 2 with an ankle injury.

Those all hurt, but it was James who inflicted the most pain.

James carried the Cavs to their first finals appearance eight years ago, when they were swept by San Antonio. Cleveland was a heavy underdog then and it was assumed the Cavs would get back again. But James left in 2010 to join the Heat, a move that dropped the Cavaliers from relevance

and into the lower rungs of the standings.

His return to his home team, to play alongside Kevin Love — out for the season with a shoulder injury — and Irving immediately made the Cavaliers the team to beat in the East. It didn't go exactly as planned under first-year coach David Blatt, who left his family in Israel to take the Cavs' job.

"We're in Cleveland," Blatt cracked. "Nothing is easy here."

The Cavs lost center Anderson Varejao to a season-ending Achilles injury in December and they were 19-20 before trading for Smith, Iman Shumpert and Timofey Mozgov, a trio that provided the intended boost.

Irving, who missed Cleveland's previous two games with tendinitis in his left knee, scored 16 and the All-Star point guard looked better than he has in weeks. Unlike Game 3, when he missed his first 10 shots, James started much better and scored 15 in the first half as the Cavs opened a 17-point halftime lead. They pushed it to 20 early in the third, withstood a brief rally by the Hawks and spent the fourth quarter playing their reserves and getting ready for a party and some time off before the finals. □

Brassard, Lundqvist lead Rangers past Lightning 7-3



TAMPA, Florida (AP) — New York's Derek Brassard had a hat trick and Henrik Lundqvist stopped 36 shots in another season-saving performance as the Rangers beat Tampa Bay 7-3 on Tuesday to force a decisive Game 7 in the NHL Eastern Conference finals.

Brassard also had two assists for the Rangers, who evened the series 3-3. Keith Yandle, James Sheppard and J.T. Miller also scored past Lightning goaltender Ben Bishop, who was re-

placed with his team trailing 5-1 with just under 13 minutes remaining. Rick Nash added a power-play goal against Andrei Vasilevskiy. Lundqvist was outstanding before giving up a pair of third-period goals to Nikita Kucherov. New York improved to 4-0 in games where it faced elimination in this postseason, and Lundqvist is 9-1 with his team's season on the line since the start of last year's playoffs, and 15-3 under those circumstances dating back to

2012.

He'll have a chance to build on that superb record in Game 7 on Friday in New York.

"We capitalized early on our chances, and after that our goaltender was asked to make some big saves, which he did," Rangers coach Alain Vigneault said. "But in the third period, with our season on the line, we probably played our best period of this series so far. We wanted a chance and we got a chance."

Brassard completed his hat trick with empty-netter with 1:41 to go. "Every time we're in an elimination game, that's the way we play," Brassard said.

New York scored five times in the third period, turning a tight game into a rout. □

New York Rangers' J.T. Miller (10) congratulates teammate Derick Brassard (16) on a third-period goal against the Tampa Bay Lightning during Game 6 of the Eastern Conference finals in the NHL hockey Stanley Cup playoffs, Tuesday, May 26, 2015, in Tampa, Fla.

Associated Press

Last year's runner-up Halep exits French Open



Romania's Simona Halep loses her balance in the second round match of the French Open tennis tournament against Croatia's Mirjana Lucic-Baroni at the Roland Garros stadium, in Paris, France, Wednesday, May 27, 2015. Lucic-Baroni won in two sets 7-5, 6-1.

Associated Press

SAMUEL PETREQUIN

AP Sports Writer

PARIS (AP) — Simona Halep became the highest seeded player to exit the French Open so far as last year's runner-up lost 7-5, 6-1 to Mirjana Lucic-Baroni in the second round on Wednesday.

The third-seeded Halep, who reached her first major final at Roland Garros in 2014, struggled from the start on Court Suzanne Lenglen and was overpowered in the second set, slumping to her second straight defeat against her 70th-ranked opponent. The Croatian had also beaten Halep at the U.S. Open last year.

"It was difficult because I didn't feel the game," Halep said. "I don't have a good feeling of my game, and that's why I couldn't change something." Lucic-Baroni hit an ace on match point and raised both arms in delight. She finished with 29 winners, compared to five for Halep.

"It's incredible, she's just a great champion and I respect her so much," Lucic-Baroni said. "It's such a huge win."

Up next for the Croatian is local favorite Alize Cornet.

"I wish at least three people will cheer for me in that match," Lucic-Baroni said. Earlier, defending cham-

pion Maria Sharapova limited her mistakes to just eight unforced errors as she beat Russian Fed Cup teammate Vitalia Diatchenko 6-3, 6-1.

She will now get an early test in her bid for a third French Open title, having set up a third-round match against 2010 French Open finalist Samantha Stosur. The Australian swept to a 6-0, 6-1 victory over French wild card entry Amandine Hesse.

The rout extended Stosur's winning streak to seven matches after she arrived in Paris on the back of her first title this year in Strasbourg.

In men's play, second-seeded Roger Federer made light work of Marcel Granollers, winning 6-2, 7-6 (1), 6-3, while 2014 Australian Open winner Stan Wawrinka reached the third round with a 6-3, 6-4, 5-7, 6-3 defeat of Dusan Lajovic. No. 5 Kei Nishikori, No. 12 Gilles Simon and 14th-seeded Jo-Wilfried Tsonga advanced in straight sets.

Gael Monfils was given a hard time on center court by Diego Schwartzman before rallying past the 62nd-ranked Argentine 4-6, 6-4, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3.

The 26th-seeded Stosur has not beaten Sharapova since a match on hard court in Tokyo three years ago, with Sharapova

boasting a 14-2 career record against the Australian veteran.

"Playing Maria is always a big challenge for me," Stosur said. "No matter what surface it's on, I don't have a very good record at all." But Stosur can take confidence from their previous match on the Parisian clay in the fourth round last year, when she led 6-3, 4-3 before Sharapova won the next nine games.

"It's one of those matches that's a tough matchup, but I know I've got the game that can trouble her, and hopefully I can do it well and we will see what happens," Stosur said.

After reuniting last month with former coach David Taylor, Stosur is hitting form at the right time. Before Strasbourg, where the 2011 U.S. Open champion won a seventh career title, Stosur had won back-to-back matches just once in 10 tournaments.

She said her good spell of form is mainly due to her renewed partnership with Taylor.

"I think going back with Dave, that's given me confidence," Stosur said. "That's probably a contribution, and then playing on a surface that I feel good on. Been able to get over a couple of injuries again. It all I guess makes for a better kind of couple

of weeks."

Sharapova's main focus at the moment is to fully recover from her cold after winning the Italian Open.

"For me right now it's really about recovery and just being healthy for the next round," said Sharapova, who is bidding to become the first player to retain her title in Paris since Justine Henin in 2007. She also won in 2012.

"Fortunately I played a lot of tennis in the previous two tournaments and this is not a stage where you're trying to fix things or work on things. It's really about maintenance and recovery and getting ready for the next match," she said.

Among other seeded women to advance were No. 11 Angelique Kerber, No. 13 Lucie Safarova and No. 20 Sabine Lisicki. □



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Soccer officials indicted in sweeping corruption probe

GRAHAM DUNBAR

AP Sports Writer

ZURICH (AP) — The U.S. government launched an attack on what it called deep-seated and brazen corruption in soccer's global governing body Wednesday, pulling FIFA executives out of a luxury Swiss hotel to face racketeering charges and raiding regional offices in Miami.

Swiss officials also invaded FIFA headquarters, seizing records and computers to investigate whether the decisions to award World Cups to Russia and Qatar were rigged.

Scandals and rumors of corruption have dogged FIFA throughout the 17-year reign of its president, Sepp Blatter, but he was not named in either investigation. He is scheduled to stand Friday for re-election to a fifth, four-year term, and the organization said the vote would go ahead as planned, despite the latest turmoil.

FIFA also ruled out a revote of the World Cup bids won by Russia in 2018 and Qatar in 2022.

"We welcome the actions and the investigations by the U.S. and Swiss authorities and believe that it will help to reinforce measures that FIFA has already taken to root out any wrongdoing in football," Blatter said in a statement. The organization said it was cooperating fully with the investigation.

Some of the biggest names in soccer said they had complained for years about corruption in FIFA, which oversees the world's most popular sport and generates billions in revenue each year.

"I was treated like a crazy person," former soccer great Diego Maradona told radio station Radio La Red in Buenos Aires. "Now the FBI has told the truth." Former Brazilian star Romario, an outspoken FIFA critic, said "someone had to eventually arrest them one day."

Authorities conducted early morning raids in Zurich at FIFA headquarters and



This is a combo of six file photos of the soccer officials involved in the US Justice Department of investigation into corruption at FIFA. From top left clockwise a Jeffrey Webb: Current FIFA vice-president and executive committee member, Concacaf president, Jose Maria Marin Current member of the FIFA organising committee for the Olympic football tournaments, Nicolas Leoz former FIFA executive committee member and Conmebol president, Eugenio Figueredo current FIFA vice-president and executive committee member, Jack Warner, former FIFA vice-president and executive committee member, Concacaf president, and Eduardo Li, current FIFA executive committee member-elect, Concacaf executive committee member .

Associated Press

the five-star Baur au Lac Hotel. In Miami, FBI and IRS agents carried computers and boxes out of the headquarters of CONCACAF, the governing body of North and Central America and the Caribbean, whose past and current presidents were among 14 defendants under indictment for corruption.

Swiss police arrested seven soccer official at the request of American prosecutors and threatened them with extradition to the U.S. Four other soccer and marketing officials agreed to plead guilty.

"Beginning in 1991, two generations of soccer officials ... used their positions of trust within their respective organizations to solicit bribes from sports marketers in exchange for the commercial rights to their soccer tournaments," U.S. Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch said at a news conference in New York. "They did this over and over, year after year, tournament after tournament."

U.S. prosecutors said they will seek forfeiture of more than \$151 million the government alleges was illegally obtained. They said the indictments represented only the beginning of their efforts.

Richard Weber, head of the IRS Criminal Division, called the case "the World Cup of fraud."

Two current FIFA vice presidents were among those arrested and indicted, Jeffrey Webb of the Cayman Islands and Eugenio Figueredo of Uruguay, the Justice Department said. The others are Eduardo Li of Costa Rica, Julio Rocha of Nicaragua, Costas Takkas of Britain, Rafael Esquivel of Venezuela and Jose Maria Marin of Brazil.

All seven are connected with the regional confederations of North and South America and face up to 20 years in prison if convicted. FIFA suspended 11 people, including Webb and Figueredo, from all soccer-related activities following the U.S. announcement.

Webb called himself a reformer when he was elected as CONCACAF president in 2012. Prosecutors alleged that part of the bribe money directed to Webb was transferred to the account of a contractor building a swimming pool at Webb's home in Loganville, Georgia.

The seven soccer officials arrested are connected with CONCACAF or CONMEBOL, South America's governing body. Each faces up to 20 years in prison if convicted.

The Swiss justice ministry said six of the seven officials arrested oppose extradition to the United States, adding that U.S. authorities now have 40 days to submit the formal extradition request.

One of those detained, who was unidentified, agreed to "a simplified extradition procedure," meaning he can be sent to the U.S. in the coming days. Four of the men indicted are sports marketing executives and another works

in broadcasting. Jack Warner, a former FIFA vice president from Trinidad and Tobago, was among those indicted, and he turned himself in to police in Port-of-Spain after they issued an arrest warrant at the request of U.S. authorities. Warner, who has proclaimed his innocence, was forced out of FIFA in 2011 over a bribery scandal.

The Justice Department cited bribes and kickbacks involving media rights deals involving World Cup qualifying matches in the Caribbean and Central America, the Copa America — South America's continental championship — plus the CONCACAF Gold Cup and Champions League.

Prosecutors said CONMEBOL reached an agreement in 2013 with a new company, Datisa, on a \$240 million contract for rights to the Copa America in 2015, 2019 and 2023, and the following year to a \$112.5 million deal for the 2016 Copa America Centenario in the U.S. As part of the deals, prosecutors said Datisa agreed to pay \$110 million in bribes to South American soccer officials.

"They were expected to uphold the rules that keep soccer honest and to protect the integrity of the game," Lynch said. "Instead, they corrupted the business of worldwide soccer to serve their interests and to enrich themselves." U.S. prosecutors said they had uncovered a dozen different schemes, including \$10 million in payments from a FIFA account in Switzerland to an account in New York for credit to an account controlled by Warner. South Africa, with the backing of Nelson Mandela, beat rival bids from Morocco and Egypt to host the tournament in 2010, four years after narrowly losing out to Germany for the previous tournament.

The Swiss prosecutors' office said the U.S. probe was separate from its investigation but that authorities were working together. □

Tech blog spinoff Re/code is acquired by online media chain

The Associated Press

Tech news blog Re/code said Tuesday it's been acquired by online publishing company Vox Media, just 18 months after spinning off from its former parent, The Wall Street Journal.

Vox operates several news and entertainment sites, including The Verge, which also covers tech news. In an online statement, Re/code founders Kara Swisher and Walt Mossberg said they will continue to operate their site separately but may occasionally collaborate with The Verge.

Re/code has focused on tech companies and business news, while The Verge reports from a culture and lifestyle perspective.



BC-US-TEC--Re/code Acquired, 1st Ld-Writethru/216

Eds: Adds background, clarifies that terms of sale weren't disclosed.

Associated Press.

tive.

were not disclosed.

started their blog at The

Terms of the acquisition

Swisher and Mossberg

Wall Street Journal, which

is owned by News Corp., where it was known as AllThingsD. Since the spinoff, Re/code has continued to stage successful industry conferences and earned a reputation for breaking exclusive stories. But its readership has lagged.

Re/code had 1.5 million unique visitors in April, compared with 12 million for the Verge and 53 million for all Vox sites combined, according to the comScore research service. Another tech news site, GigaOm, shut down earlier this year. A number of other news sites continue to cover the tech industry in New York and Silicon Valley, and some have added staff in recent months. □

As TV goes online, Suddenlink latest to hook up with Hulu

TALI ARBEL

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — TV watchers are going online, and cable companies are following them there.

Suddenlink, which has 1.1 million TV subscribers, is the latest to hook up with Hulu. It said Wednesday that it will be adding the service to its TiVo set-top box later this year. It integrated Netflix last year.

There has been a string of cable company partnerships with Hulu and Netflix announced over the past year, primarily with smaller providers.

The benefit of these deals for consumers is that they make it easier to watch online video in the living room, on your TV. Services like Hulu get a marketing boost and a way to add new subscribers. The cable companies have a chance to talk you into upgrading to faster, more expensive broadband speeds and keep you watching online video competitors on their cable box rather than away from your TV on your iPad.

"If they're already buying or planning to buy Netflix and/or Hulu, what we're doing gives them more usability for the service and it provides more value to

them from the product they get from us," said Kathy Payne, Suddenlink's chief programming officer. For customers with a TiVo box from their cable pro-

Netflix pop up as channels on the TV guide. You don't have to use an additional device like a Roku, game console or Apple TV, with a separate remote, to watch

Netflix through your cable box. Only about 40 percent of Suddenlink customers with a digital video recorder provided by the company use the TiVo ver-

the cable box. Hulu, through its website, costs \$8 a month. Netflix starts at \$8 a month too.

Suddenlink added a Netflix app to its TiVo box last year and is exploring options for other online video partnerships too, Payne said.

Could it hurt the video business? She said that customers are already saying they want more choices of video packages, including smaller, cheaper ones, and that so far Netflix has primarily been a complementary service. Meanwhile, subscribing to online video may prompt customers to upgrade to faster, more expensive Internet.

"I don't know if we can attribute that just to Netflix but definitely we've seen higher demand" for faster Internet, Payne said.

In its most recent quarter, Suddenlink's video customers fell 4.7 percent to 1.1 million. Internet customers rose 7.3 percent to 1.2 million.

European phone and cable giant Altice last week announced it was paying \$9.1 billion for a controlling stake in St. Louis-based Suddenlink, which mainly serves smaller markets in the South, West and Midwest. □



In this Wednesday, March 18, 2015 file photo, Altice group's Chairman Patrick Drahi poses for photographers at the Scopus Awards of the French Friends of the Hebrew University, in Paris, France.

Associated Press

vider, you can get a list of live episodes, on-demand episodes from the cable provider and episodes from the online services all from one search. Hulu and

online video on your TV. But just because your cable provider is doing this partnership doesn't automatically mean you'll be able to watch Hulu and

sion.

And the subscription services are optional. Cable customers don't have to pay for them just because they are available through

US bank earnings up 6.9 percent in first quarter

MARCY GORDON

AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. banks' earnings rose 6.9 percent in the first quarter from a year earlier as revenues increased, delinquent loans continued to fall and the number of "problem" banks reached a six-year low.

The data issued Wednesday by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. showed

"gradual but steady improvement" for the banking industry, FDIC Chairman Martin Gruenberg said at a news conference. Still, low interest rates continued to crimp banks' profit margins on loans during the January-March period.

The FDIC reported that U.S. banks earned \$39.8 billion in the first quarter, up from \$37.2 billion a year earlier. Nearly 63 percent of banks

reported an increase in profit in the first quarter from a year earlier. Only 5.6 percent of banks were unprofitable — the lowest percentage of unprofitable institutions since the second quarter of 2005.

The volume of delinquent loans fell by 6 percent, and the average noncurrent loan rate declined from 1.96 percent to 1.83 percent, a seven-year low.

Banks also increased by nearly 10 percent, or \$756 million, the amounts they set aside to cover losses on loans. Lending grew by 0.6 percent, or \$52.5 billion.

The number of banks on the FDIC's confidential "problem list" fell to a six-year low of 253 from 291 in the fourth quarter.

Community banks scored strong earnings growth in the first quarter, jump-

ing 16.4 percent from the same period last year to \$4.9 billion. They showed stronger growth in lending than the rest of the industry, the FDIC said.

But continued low interest rates "remains a challenge for banks," Gruenberg said. The average net interest margin on loans and other investments fell to 3.02 percent from 3.16 percent from a year earlier. □

Wall Street recovers on hopes of Greece debt deal

KEN SWEET

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks ended higher Wednesday, recovering the most of their losses from the day before, as Greece appeared closer to resolving its latest debt issues.

However, the overall market remains directionless as most investors are focused on figuring out when the Federal Reserve's long-awaited interest rate increase may come.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 121.45 points, or 0.7 percent, to 18,162.99. It had fallen 190 points on Tuesday. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 19.28 points, or 0.9 percent, to 2,123.48 and the Nasdaq composite rose 73.84 points, or 1.5 percent, to 5,106.59.

The stock market was barely higher for the first half of the day, but gained momentum in the afternoon after Greece's Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras said his country is near a deal with its creditors. Tsipras stressed

that "calm and determination" were needed in the final stretch of negotiations. Greece might miss a debt payment on June 5 if it fails to receive bailout funds from creditors, who are demanding that the country make reforms to its economy. It is unclear whether an agreement can be reached in time and Greece is dealing with three different creditor institutions: the International Monetary Fund, European Commission and European Central Bank.

Missing those payments could destabilize the country's financial system and eventually push it out of the 19-country eurozone, a step that could shake the currency union and the global economy.

The news helped the euro stabilize against the dollar after its sell-off Tuesday. The drop in the euro was partially blamed for yesterday's stock market sell-off. Outside of Greece and the dollar, most of investors' attention is on the Fed and



Trader George Baskinger works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Stocks ended higher Wednesday, recovering the most of their losses from the day before, as Greece appeared closer to resolving its latest debt issues.
(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

when the central bank plans to start raising rates for the first time in almost a decade. Investors and strategists are split on when the central bank will move, with some thinking it could be as early as September and most looking at early

2016. Market strategists argue that until the market has some more clarity from the Fed or from economic data, stocks are unlikely to post solid gains. There was no major economic data on Wednesday to move

the market one way or another. "It's an old but true expression: the market likes certainty. Until we get that from the Fed, stocks are unlikely to make any headway," said David Lefkowitz, a senior equity strategist at UBS. □

Michael Kors shares dive on sales weakness, outlook

LONDON (AP) — Michael Kors' stock plunged more than 10 percent in premarket trading after the seller of handbags, clothing and accessories issued a weak outlook and said sales are being pressured by foreign currency fluctuations.

The company said Wednesday that its fiscal fourth-quarter profit rose. But sales at stores open a year, an important measurement for retailers, fell

5.8 percent. Excluding currency fluctuations, the figure slipped 1.7 percent.

In addition, the company's first-quarter and fiscal 2016 forecasts came in well below Wall Street expectations.

For the three months ended March 28, Michael Kors Holdings Ltd. earned \$182.6 million, or 90 cents per share. That compares with \$161 million, or 78 cents per share, a year

earlier.

Earnings, adjusted for non-recurring costs, were 96 cents per share.

The results topped Wall Street expectations. The average estimate of 16 analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research was for earnings of 90 cents per share.

Revenue increased to \$1.04 billion from \$882 million as sales grew in Europe, Japan and North

America. The results met the expectations of analysts polled by Zacks.

Michael Kors reported a full-year profit of \$881 million, or \$4.28 per share, on revenue of \$4.4 billion.

Going forward, the company anticipates fiscal 2016 earnings between \$4.40 and \$4.50 per share. Revenue is expected in a range of about \$4.7 billion to \$4.8 billion. The retailer predicts first-quarter earn-

ings between 74 cents and 78 cents per share on revenue in a range of \$930 million to \$950 million.

Analysts polled by FactSet had expected 2016 earnings of \$4.67 per share on revenue of \$5.03 billion and first-quarter earnings of \$1.03 per share on revenue of \$1.09 billion.

Michael Kors' stock declined \$7.26, or 12 percent, to \$53.33 before the market opened. □

Wild trading in 3 firms confounds Hong Kong

NEIL GOUGH

© 2015 New York Times

HONG KONG - It is a stock market mystery.

A high-flying Chinese real estate company loses billions of dollars in value one week, then recovers the next. And no one, including the company's executives and regulators, can say exactly why.

"The board confirms that it is not aware of any reasons for these price and trading volume movements, or of any information which must be announced to avoid a false market in the company's securities," the company, Goldin Properties, said in a stock exchange filing on Tuesday.

Unexplained price swings are not unheard of in Hong Kong's volatile stock market. But the sheer scale of the whipsaw trading in recent days is drawing attention to the investing risks.

Shares of Goldin Properties, which lost 40 percent last Thursday, were up 43 percent on Tuesday. Shares of a related company, Goldin Financial - which, like Goldin Properties, is controlled by billionaire Pan Sutong - plunged more than 40 percent last Thursday. And a day before that, shares in the Hanergy Thin Film Power Group, a solar equipment manufacturer controlled by Chinese billionaire Li Hejun, fell 47 percent before trading in the stock was suspended.

All three companies have offered no explanation. Regulators, too, have been quiet.

The situation underscores the sometimes opaque nature of the Hong Kong and Chinese markets. Some companies like Goldin often have only a small number of shares trading on the open market, making them especially susceptible to large swings.

Information for such tightly controlled companies can also be sparse. Companies are not subject to the same disclosure requirements as they are in other major markets, including the United States. Investors in Hong Kong and China also lack access to some protections common in the United States.

The companies all have similar traits. All three are tightly controlled by their billionaire owners.

Shares of all three have rocketed up in recent months, partly as a result of enthusiasm from the rally in mainland China's stock markets spilling into Hong Kong.

Before the sell-off last week, shares in Hanergy had risen more than 150 percent this year, Goldin Financial was up more than 300 percent, and Goldin Properties 400 percent.

"The meteoric growth of these companies in share value was abetted by the obscurity of ownership that enabled them, like so many listed companies, to generate aggressive growth in revenue that satisfied a general narrative about China's rise: the solar power industry in Hanergy's case and, in Goldin's, ultraluxurious properties," Anne Stevenson-Yang, a co-founder of J Capital Research in Beijing, wrote Tuesday in a research note.

But on Friday, Ashley Alder, the chief executive of the Securities and Futures Commission, Hong Kong's main market regulator, said the volatility did "not necessarily imply there is a rise in market manipulation or other misconduct."

"Of course, well-functioning markets depend on full information and honest trading, and here stern enforcement is essential to deter poor corporate disclosure and trading misconduct," Alder added, declining to name specific companies. "Where we are suspicious, we investigate." □

Charter clients weary of service's future

HILARY STOUT

© 2015 New York Times

"Maybe it will go from an F-minus to an F."

So predicted Terence Allen of Atlanta, a longtime Charter Communications subscriber, upon hearing that many long-suffering Time Warner Cable cus-

be negligible.

"Charter is not going to revolutionize Time Warner's service quality, because Charter's service quality is not that much better," said Mark Cooper, director of research at the Consumer Federation of America.

Not everyone was gloomy.



Terence Allen, a longtime Charter Communications cable service customer, at his home in Atlanta, May 26, 2015. For Time Warner Cable subscribers, hoping for better service now that the provider has been acquired by Charter Communications, "not quite as bad" may be about as good as they can get with this deal.

(Kevin Liles/The New York Times)

tomers were crossing their fingers that Charter's acquisition of their cable provider could lead to better service.

Allen, who has had no cable option but Charter in his neighborhood for the past 15 years, was echoing (in rather more pronounced terms) a sentiment voiced by a number of analysts, consumer advocates and brand watchers: For Time Warner Cable subscribers, "not quite as bad" may be about as good as they can get with this deal.

Charter's announcement Tuesday that it had agreed to buy its larger rival Time Warner Cable for \$56 billion cheered Wall Street, and observers predicted that some of the regulatory hurdles that led to the demise of the Comcast-Time Warner Cable deal last month were not as likely to be a problem this time.

But for customers frustrated with screen freeze, unresponsive remote controls, uneven speeds, slurring and skipping over dialogue, and the elusive quest to get a real person on the phone when there is a problem, the effect may

Amy Yong, an analyst at Macquarie Capital, predicted that Time Warner Cable customers would find more pricing transparency and faster Internet speeds with Charter. She said that Charter had a better search-and-discover function for its video offerings. "From a consumer standpoint, I know there is a general belief that all the cable companies are the same," she said. "But there are pretty big nuances among the players."

The effect on prices would vary according to the market, Yong said. And the cable companies' customer markets have little overlap, meaning there would not be added competition that could drive down the cost of subscriptions or premium packages in a particular city. But for current Time Warner Cable subscribers, she said, "I think the experience will be better and the value proposition will be better."

Adding Time Warner Cable's 15 million customers to Charter's nearly 6 million, as well as the 2.5 million that Charter is acquiring from Bright House Networks

in another deal, would give it just 3 million fewer than Comcast, a size that could pose service issues because of the adjustments to a larger-scale operation. Consumers' disillusionment with cable companies has already helped fuel cord-cutting, or moving away from cable packages toward Internet-based streaming services like Netflix and newcomers like HBO Now. (Still, those services depend on fast Internet speeds provided in many cases by the same cable companies.)

If Charter was supposed to have faster Internet, Allen was not seeing it.

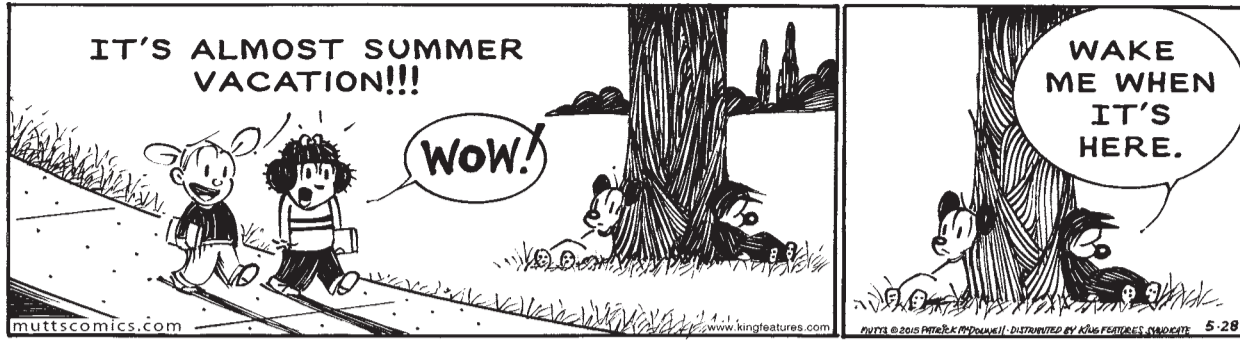
His speed was "supposed to be on the higher end," he said, "but their high end doesn't seem to be very high-end."

Then there is the problem of the Internet and cable going out entirely, often as a result of bad weather, he said. That has happened eight to 10 times over the past two or three years, he said, and when it does, rather than getting a live person on the phone to arrange a repair, he gets sucked into a spiral of computer voice recognition software commanding him to try to disconnect this or restart that.

"I would say my impression overall of Charter is that they talk very well about their services and their breadth and depth, but quite honestly they don't deliver very well," Allen said. "One of the things they push quite a bit is the bundle - telephone, Internet and cable. I would never even consider getting the telephone because their cable and Internet can be so dodgy."

The Better Business Bureau in St. Louis, the city where the company used to have its headquarters, lists 5,183 closed complaints about Charter over the past three years, 2,961 of them for "problems with product/service" and 1,762 for "billing/collection issues." Of the customer reviews posted on the bureau's website, three are positive and 51 are negative. One is neutral. □

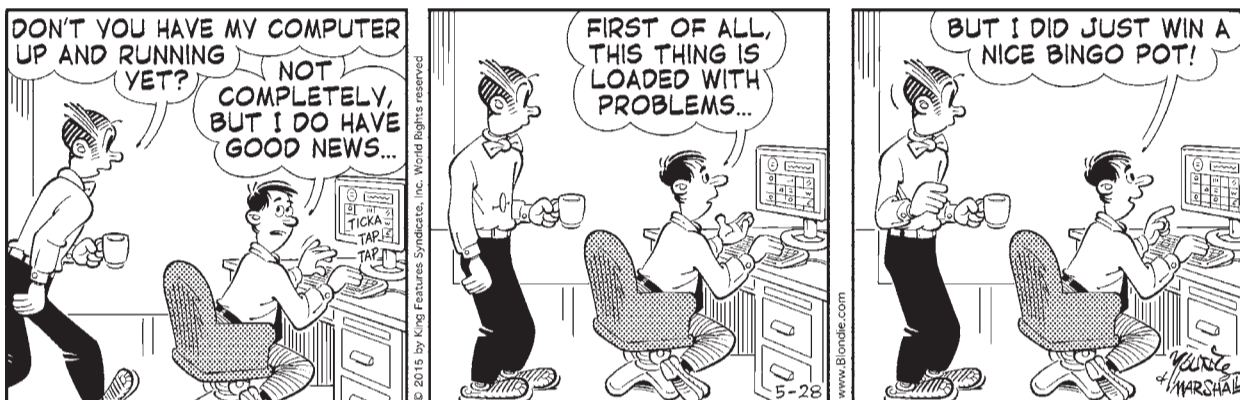
Mutts



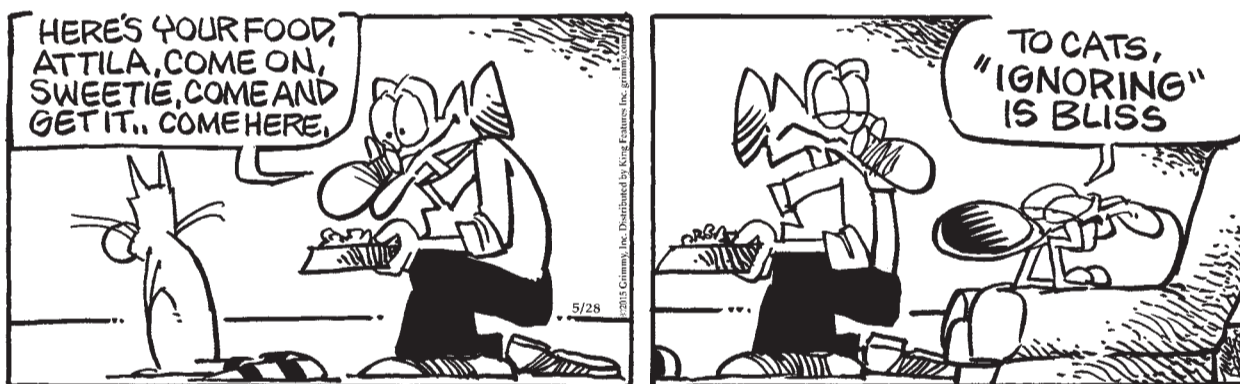
6 Chix



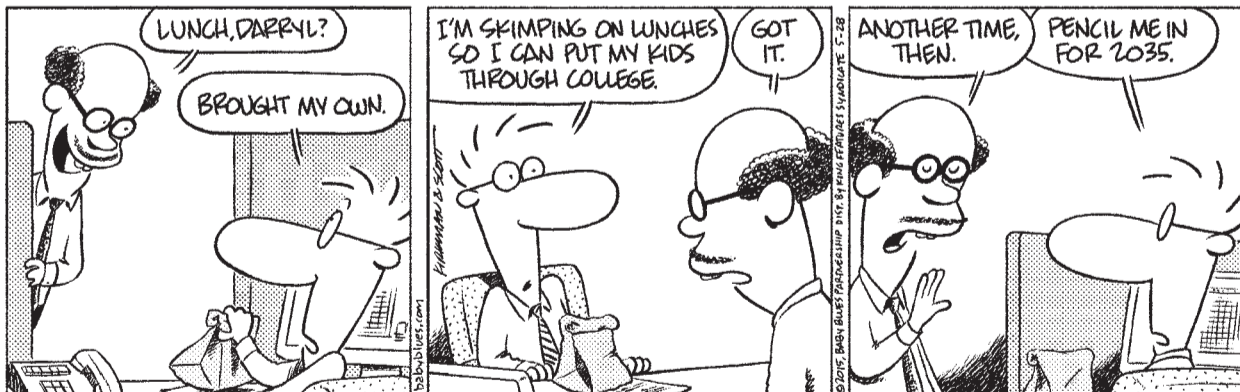
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		4				9		
			2		9			
2		9		3		6		5
	6			8			1	
	5			9			7	
6		2		4		8		3
			1		8			
		7				5		

Difficulty Level ★★

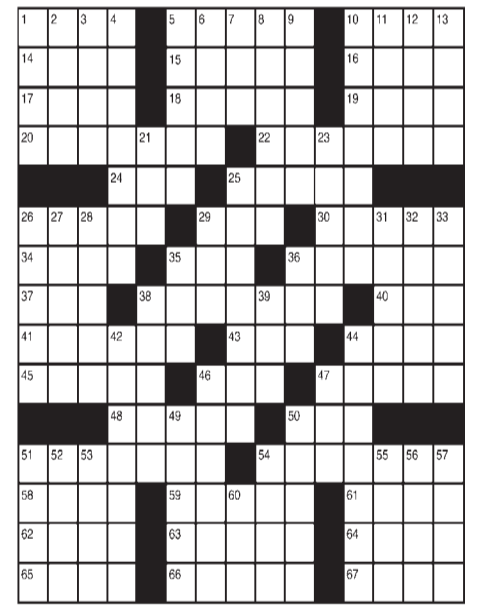
5/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer	4	5	8	9	2	1	3	7	6
	7	1	9	3	6	5	8	4	2
	6	2	3	7	8	4	9	5	1
	2	3	6	4	7	9	1	8	5
	9	4	1	6	5	8	7	2	3
	5	8	7	1	3	2	4	6	9
	8	6	4	5	9	3	2	1	7
	3	7	2	8	1	6	5	9	4
	1	9	5	2	4	7	6	3	8

ACROSS

- 1 Items on dried fruit platters
5 Peruvian pack animal
10 African nation
14 Oaf
15 Had a bug
16 Israeli dance
17 "___ Heartache"; Bonnie Tyler hit
18 Fraternity letter
19 TV show award
20 Makes the rounds, as a cop would
22 Showing no signs of growing old
24 ___ up; bind
25 Entreaties
26 Ring-shaped island
29 Faux ___; social blunder
30 ___ up; prepares
34 Walk the floor
35 Final bill
36 Pummel
37 Major network
38 Desert danger
40 Ms. MacGraw
41 Wakened
43 ___ on; wore
44 Merriment
45 Sacred scroll
46 Energy
47 ___ on to; saves
48 "M*A*S*H" role
50 Poke sharply
51 Fall month
54 Talked on & on, but got off track
58 Mild oath
59 Log home
61 Attract; entice
62 Prescribed item
63 Sun-dried brick
64 Deserve; merit
65 Observes
66 Banquet
67 Reddish-brown color
- DOWN
1 Turn over
2 Tiny bit
3 Powerful wind



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

5/28/15

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

CABS	PLIES	HERO
OVER	RECAP	AVOW
PINS	OVERACTIVE	
DDE	AWED	OILED
FABLE	BUN	
QUAILS	HANGUP	
UNCLE	EDICT	NUN
ACTS	FAITH	FATE
DUO	MOSES	COTTA
TRUANT	MARTYR	
ASTIR	BLUE	CBS
INITIATION	OHIO	
MARE	BROAD	FERN
SPED	CASTS	ADDS

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5/28/15

- 44 Turkey
46 Festive street procession
47 Show-off
49 Evening coffee, perhaps
50 La Toya's sister
51 ___ and ends; potpourri
- 52 Part of TLC
53 Loyal
54 BBQ favorites
55 Island feast
56 Goes astray
57 Fender
60 Feathery scarf

Theft of copper cables disrupts service on NYC subway trains

E. G. FITZSIMMONS

© 2015 New York Times

NEW YORK - Subway service was halted on the A train and delayed on the C train on Wednesday, disrupting the commutes of tens of thousands of riders after copper cables were stolen from train tracks in Queens, officials said.

At least 500 feet of cable was stolen from the A train tracks near Howard Beach, presumably to be sold as scrap, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority said Wednesday morning. Subway service was suspended shortly before midnight between the Rockaway Boulevard and Broad Channel stations, and the disruptions continued into the morning rush on Wednesday.

Limited service on the A train was restored around 10 a.m., the authority said. The theft led to delays and crowding along the entire A line, which runs from Inwood in Upper Manhattan to the Rockaways, said Carmen Bianco, the president of New York City Transit. "We are working closely with the NYPD Transit Bureau to help them investigate this crime and identify the culprits responsible," Bianco said in a statement.

The authority said it planned to halt service to the Rockaways again Wednesday around 10 p.m. to make further repairs and would run shuttle buses instead. About 40,000 passengers ride the A train to and from the Rockaways each day. Kevin Ortiz, a spokesman for the authority, said thefts of copper cable were common along train lines. "It's a prevalent issue for railroads throughout the country," he said.

Last October, a man was arrested on charges of stealing copper cable from tracks on the Long Island Rail Road. Officials at the authority said he confessed to eight thefts in one month, including one that caused delays on lines in Mineola.

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35	314	\$ 4,000
30/31	524	\$ 4,500
30	515	\$ 4,900
30	311	\$ 5,000
23	343	\$ 4,500
27	103	\$ 4,000
29	134	\$ 4,500

Contact Brian Cell: 593-0200
vr.realty@mac.com

211892

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203076

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NOORD	587-0009
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SAVANETA	584-7000
SAN NICOLAS	584-5000
FIRE DEPT.	115
FIRE DEPT.	582-1108
POLIS TIPLINE	11141
HOSPITAL	527-4000
AMBULANCE	582-1234
SAN NICOLAS	
AMBULANCE	584-5050

PHARMACY

Oranjestad: Trupiaal Tel: 583-8560
San Nicolas: Aloe Tel: 584-4606

INFORMATION	118
SETAR	582-2116
TAXI	582-5900
TAXI-TAS	587-5900
PROF. TAXI	588-0035
TAXI D.T.S.	587-2300
SERVICE ARUBA	583-3232

CRUISESHIP



May 28 Carnival Conquest

Aruba Aiport	524-2424
American Airline	582-2700
Avianca	588-0059
Dutch Antilles	588-1900
Insel Air	588-9314
Jet Blue	588-2244
Spirit Airlines	582-7117
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Tel: 583-8989

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Study: Ethiopian fossils indicate new forerunner of humans

MALCOLM RITTER
AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A fossil find adds another twig to the human evolutionary tree, giving further evidence that the well-known "Lucy" species had company in what is now Ethiopia, a new study says.

A lower jaw, plus jaw fragments and teeth, dated at 3.3 million to 3.5 million years old, were found in the Afar region of northern Ethiopia four years ago. That shows a second human ancestor lived in about the same area and time frame as Lucy's species, researchers said. But not everyone agrees.

In a paper released Wednesday by the journal *Nature*, the researchers announce the new find and assign it to a species they dubbed *Australopithecus deyiremeda* (aw-strah-low-PIH'-thuh-kus day-eh-REH'-meh-dah). In the Afar language the second name means "close relative," referring to its apparent relationship to later members of the evolutionary tree. But nobody knows just how it's related to our own



In an April 29, 2015 photo provided by the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Dr. Yohannes Haile-Selasie conducts comparative analysis of "*Australopithecus deyiremeda*" in his laboratory at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

branch of the family tree, said Yohannes Haile-Selasie of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, who led the discovery team. Our branch, which includes *Homo sapiens* and our closest extinct relatives, arose from the evolutionary grouping that now includes

the new creature as well as Lucy's species. The new arrival, and the possibility of still more to come, complicates the question of which species led to our branch, he said.

Previously, fossilized foot bones found in 2009 near the new discovery site had

indicated the presence of a second species. But those bones were not assigned to any species, and it's not clear whether they belong to the newly identified species either, Haile-Selasie said. If they don't, that would indicate yet another species from the

Associated Press

same time and region as Lucy's species, *Australopithecus afarensis*.

Bernard Wood of George Washington University, who didn't participate in the new work, said the discovery provides "compelling evidence" that a second creature lived in the vicinity of Lucy's species at the same time. The next question, he said, is how they shared the landscape.

"These fossils certainly create an agenda for a lot of interesting research that's going to be done in the next decade," Wood said.

As evidence that the new fossils represent a previously unknown species, the researchers cite specific anatomical differences with known fossils. But Tim White, a University of California, Berkeley, expert in human evolution, was unimpressed.

He said he thinks the fossils actually come from Lucy's species.

"Anatomical variation within a biological species is normal," he said in an email. "That's why so many announcements of this sort are quickly overturned." □

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CALL OR WHATSAPP

The Rock faces off against the Big One in 'San Andreas'

LINDSEY BAHR

AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) —

Dwayne Johnson has played his share of outsized heroes over the years. His characters have taken down crazed criminals and evil empires. He's crushed an army of fire ants with his chin. He's even flexed his way out of a plaster cast. But not even "The Rock" can beat an earthquake. In "San Andreas," Hollywood's latest venture into the well-trod territory of disaster films, the famed fault line takes the spotlight as the unforgiving cause of a series of devastating earthquakes from Los Angeles to San Francisco.

The 810-mile long rift might not have the maniacal drive of Ultron or the eat-or-be-eaten focus of genetically engineered dinosaurs, but as blockbuster villains go, it does have the distinction of being a real threat to many people.

That's part of the reason why it has proved to be such a compelling cinematic foe. Whether triggered by natural causes as in 1974's "Earthquake," or used as a threat to destroy Silicon Valley in "A View to a Kill," or even as a means to Lex Luthor's real estate



This photo provided by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Dwayne Johnson as Ray in a scene from the action thriller, "San Andreas." The movie releases in theaters on May 29, 2015.

Associated Press

dreams in "Superman," the inherent drama and ever-present danger resonates even with those outside of California.

Director Brad Peyton's "San Andreas," which opens Friday, imagines the possible outcome of the largest magnitude earthquake ever. Buildings crumble and burn, and bridges collapse as Johnson's first responder Ray and his estranged wife Emma (Carla Gugino) travel up the coast to save

their daughter (Alexandra Daddario).

"I think we as human beings are constantly fascinated by the desire to be able to control everything and the realization that we can't. There's nothing like mother nature to remind us of that," said Gugino.

While the "San Andreas" team is quick to point out that the film, penned by "Lost's" Carlton Cuse, is primarily meant to thrill and entertain, all have had

their own scares with earthquakes. A few were even inspired by the film to get a little more prepared for future shakers.

In fact, the story originated with producer Beau Flynn's real-life experiences. Three weeks after he moved to Los Angeles, the 1994 Northridge earthquake struck. The early morning, 6.7 magnitude quake rattled even the most seasoned California residents. But for a 24-year-old Miami-

raised newcomer, it was life-altering.

"It was just such a foreign feeling," said Flynn, who recalled being amazed by both the terror of the tremor and the immediate selflessness of his neighbors rushing out to help each other where they could. Unlike many disaster films, "San Andreas" features a rather exceptional family, who's as equipped as possible to deal with the escalating challenges of the enormous event, including a 15-story tsunami heading straight for San Francisco.

"We did really want to try to include things that are real to try and let people know what to do," said Flynn. "For his part, Johnson prepared for the film by training with CareFlight, a non-profit emergency services company based in Australia.

"It was a life-changing experience for me. In the past I've had the opportunity to play some pretty cool guys who were pretty proficient at what they did, but with something like this, you're playing real men and women who are out there every day," he said. "In the face of adversity, when all of us are running away, they are running in and flying in and facing that danger." □

Danielle Brooks heading to Broadway in 'The Color Purple'

MARK KENNEDY

AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) —

Actress Danielle Brooks is going from orange to purple — jumping from "Orange Is the New Black" on TV to a Broadway stage in the upcoming "The Color Purple" revival.

The actress, who plays Tasha "Taystee" Jefferson on the Netflix series, will play the proud, no-nonsense Sofia in the production directed and designed by John Doyle. She'll play the role Oprah Winfrey had in the film.

"My body is having an out-of-body experience," she said Wednesday by phone from a writers' workshop

in New Harmony, Indiana. "I'm so shocked and honored and grateful."

The cast also includes Jennifer Hudson as Shug Avery and Cynthia Erivo as Celie. All three women will be making their Broadway debuts. Performances start Nov. 9 at the Bernard B. Jacobs Theatre.

Brooks said "The Color Purple" was the very first Broadway show she ever saw 10 years ago when she was 15. "Now, 10 years later, I get to do it," she said. "I'm trying to hold it together."

Doyle opened his production of "The Color Purple" in 2013 in London at the Menier Chocolate Factory.

Music and lyrics are by Grammy winners Brenda Russell, Allee Willis and Stephen Bray.

The musical is a stage version of Alice Walker's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel set in rural Georgia that covers a lifetime of events observed by Celie, a homely, uneducated farm woman whose dreams are repeatedly shattered by the cruelty of males.

Brooks, born and raised in South Carolina and educated at Juilliard's drama program, has been in the film "Angry Birds," HBO's "Girls" and "Time Out of Mind," starring Richard Gere.

She said she hopes she can



In a Thursday, June 19, 2014 file photo, actress Danielle Brooks arrives at the Critics' Choice Television Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

juggle both her new Broadway commitment and "Orange Is the New Black," which soon begins filming its fourth season and she credits with jump-starting her career.

"It's opened so many doors

in so many ways. I'm grateful that they've been so supportive of me and the new journey that I'm about to take," Brooks said. "Taystee is very much still alive. So far. Knock on wood, please." □

Newport festival to mark 50th year since Dylan went electric

NEWPORT, Rhode Island (AP) — This year's Newport Folk Festival plans to pay tribute to the moment when Bob Dylan made rock history by going electric 50 years ago. The festival, noted for introducing performers who later became big stars, will have a secret lineup of musicians billed as '65 Revisited. Festival producer Jay Sweet said on Tuesday that nearly a dozen contemporary musicians are included in an "all-star lineup," but the audience won't know who they are until they take the stage to close the festival with a "massive" set celebrating Dylan's 1965 performance. Dylan first appeared at Newport as a guest of Joan Baez in 1963. His three-song electric set two years later — including "Like a Rolling Stone" and "Maggie's Farm" — is widely viewed as one of the most pivotal moments in rock 'n' roll history. It marked Dylan's break with the folk movement and spurred others to go electric as well.



In this Aug. 3, 2002 file photo, legendary singer-songwriter Bob Dylan performs at the Newport Folk Festival in R.I. Dylan made rock history when he went electric at the Newport Folk Festival in 1965. Associated Press

The Fender Stratocaster guitar Dylan played in the performance sold at auction in 2013 for nearly \$1 million, the highest price paid for a guitar at auction. Dylan is not playing at this year's festival, although Sweet said he's invited to play every year. If there's any year Dylan wouldn't come, it's Sweet's guess it would probably be this one. "Having him back would

be the least Newport way to celebrate it," he said. Dylan last played Newport in 2002. "Trying to recreate that moment is a fool's errand," Sweet said. "We're about the future, not about reliving the past." But Sweet said without that moment, when Dylan struck out a new path for music, the Newport Folk Festival probably would not be celebrating its 56th anniversary this year. □

Bourdain plants digital footprint as editor at food website

J.M. HIRSCH
AP Food Editor

Anthony Bourdain has eaten his way through nearly every crevice of the globe, and now he's ready to taste a new frontier — the digital world. Bourdain has been named editor-at-large for the website Roads & Kingdoms, a digital media company that covers global food, politics, travel and culture. The role came after Bourdain, a bestselling author and host of CNN's "Parts Unknown," became the site's first outside investor. He wouldn't disclose the amount invested. "I became aware of the site pretty early on and was blown away by what I saw," he said during a recent telephone interview. "This is smart, deeply

immersive long-form stuff. Beautiful photographs. It's not listicles. It's not top 10s. It's not click bait. It assumes a smart reader. It's a personal essay with a point of view about interesting and sometimes arcane aspects of faraway places. And I just really admire that." As editor, Bourdain will oversee a new series for the site, "Dispatched," which will feature deep looks at food and culture around the world. He also hopes to help the site expand into video storytelling. He also is publishing books with the Roads & Kingdoms team under his imprint with HarperCollins. Roads & Kingdoms was launched in 2012 by former Time magazine editor Nathan Thornburgh and bestselling author Matt Goulding. Bourdain said he



In this Monday, May 19, 2014, file photo, Anthony Bourdain poses with his award for CNN's "Parts Unknown" at the 73rd Annual George Foster Peabody Awards at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, in New York. Associated Press

was drawn to the site because it isn't a travel guide. "These are storytellers. I think we travel differently now. We travel to eat now. We go to countries and we go to cities exclusively for the purpose of eating. We seek things in cultures we might not have a decade ago." □



In this April 9, 2014 file photo, actor Tracy Morgan attends the FX Networks Upfront premiere screening of "Fargo" at the SVA Theater in New York. Associated Press

Tracy Morgan settles suit with Wal-Mart over fatal crash

DAVID PORTER
Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Actor-comedian Tracy Morgan has settled his lawsuit against Wal-Mart over a highway crash that killed one man and left Morgan and two friends seriously injured. A filing in federal court in Newark on Wednesday refers to a confidential settlement reached by the two sides. Morgan's lawyer didn't immediately respond to a message seeking comment Wednesday. Bentonville, Arkansas-based Wal-Mart Stores Inc. called it an "amicable settlement." Details weren't disclosed.

A Wal-Mart truck slammed into the back of a limo van carrying Morgan and the others back from a show in Delaware last June. Comedian James "Jimmy Mack" McNair was killed. Morgan suffered head trauma, a broken leg and broken ribs. Wal-Mart reached a settlement with McNair's two children in January. McNair, of Peekskill, New York, grew up with Morgan in New York City and was a friend and mentor to him over the years. Wal-Mart had said earlier this year it was working toward settlements with the victims of the crash. "We know there is nothing we can do to change what happened to Mr. McNair," company spokeswoman Brooke Buchanan said in January. "We're commit-

ted to doing what's right." The truck driver, Kevin Roper, of Jonesboro, Georgia, faces several criminal charges, including death by auto, in state court. He has pleaded not guilty. He wasn't a defendant in Morgan's federal lawsuit. Morgan, who starred on "Saturday Night Live" and "30 Rock," suffered what his lawyer, Benedict Morelli, has referred to as a traumatic brain injury. Morelli said in March that Morgan wasn't fully recovered but was "working very hard to get better, physically, emotionally and mentally." Morgan had hoped to attend the 40th anniversary show of "Saturday Night Live" in February but was unable to. Limo van passengers Ardley Fuqua, of Jersey City, New Jersey, and Jeffrey Millea, of Shelton, Connecticut, also suffered serious injuries in the June crash and were plaintiffs in the lawsuit against Wal-Mart. According to the criminal complaint, Roper was operating the truck without having slept for more than 24 hours. A preliminary investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board estimated that Roper was driving 65 mph in the minute before he slammed into Morgan's limo van on the New Jersey Turnpike. The speed limit on that stretch of the turnpike is 55 mph and was lowered to 45 mph that night because of construction. □

The Big Meh



PAUL KRUGMAN
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Remember Douglas Adams' 1979 novel "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy"? It began with some technology snark, dismissing Earth as a planet whose life-forms "are so amazingly primitive that they still think digital watches are a pretty neat idea." But that was then, in the early stages of the information technology revolution.

Since then we've moved on to much more significant things, so much so that the big technology idea of 2015, so far, is a digital watch. But this one tells you to stand up if you've been sitting too long!

OK, I'm snarking, too. But there is a real question here. Everyone knows that we live in an era of incredibly rapid technological change, which is changing everything. But what if what everyone knows is wrong? And I'm not being wildly contrarian here. A growing number of economists, looking at the data on productivity and incomes, are wondering if the technological revolution has been greatly overhyped - and some technologists share their concern.

We've been here before. "The Hitchhiker's Guide" was published during the era of the "productivity paradox," a two-decade-long period during which technology seemed to be advancing rapidly - personal computing, cellphones, local area networks and the early stages of the Internet - yet economic growth was sluggish and incomes stagnant. Many hypotheses were advanced to explain that paradox, with the most popular probably being that inventing a technology and learning to use it effectively aren't the same thing. Give it time, said economic historians, and computers will eventually deliver the goods (and services).

This optimism seemed vindicated when productivity growth finally took off circa 1995. Progress was back - and so was America, which seemed to be at the cutting edge of the revolution.

But a funny thing happened on the way to the techno-revolution. We did not, it turned out, get a sustained return to rapid economic progress. Instead, it was more of a one-time spurt, which sputtered out around a decade ago. Since then, we've been living in an era of iPhones and iPads and iDontKnows, but even if you adjust for the effects of financial crisis, growth and

trends in income have reverted to the sluggishness that characterized the 1970s and 1980s.

In other words, at this point, the whole digital era, spanning more than four decades, is looking like a disappointment. New technologies have yielded great headlines, but modest economic results. Why?

One possibility is that the numbers are missing the reality, especially the benefits of new products and services. I get a lot of pleasure from technology that lets me watch streamed performances by my favorite musicians, but that doesn't get counted in GDP. Still, new technology is supposed to serve businesses as well as consumers, and should be boosting the production of traditional as well as new goods. The big productivity gains of the period from 1995 to 2005 came largely in things like inventory control, and showed up as much or more in nontechnology businesses like retail as in high-technology industries themselves. Nothing like that is happening now.

Another possibility is that new technologies are more fun than fundamental. Peter Thiel, one of the founders of PayPal, famously remarked that we wanted flying cars but got 140 characters instead. And he's not alone in suggesting that information technology that excites the Twittering classes may not be a big deal for the economy as a whole.

So what do I think is going on with technology? The answer is that I don't know - but neither does anyone else. Maybe my friends at Google are right, and Big Data will soon transform everything. Maybe 3-D printing will bring the information revolution into the material world. Or maybe we're on track for another big meh.

What I'm pretty sure about, however, is that we ought to scale back the hype.

You see, writing and talking breathlessly about how technology changes everything might seem harmless, but, in practice, it acts as a distraction from more mundane issues - and an excuse for handling those issues badly. If you go back to the 1930s, you find many influential people saying the same kinds of things such people say nowadays: This isn't really about the business cycle, never mind debates about macroeconomic policy; it's about radical technological change and a workforce that lacks the skills to deal with the new era.

And then, thanks to World War II, we finally got the demand boost we needed, and all those supposedly unqualified workers - not to mention Rosie the Riveter - turned out to be quite useful in the modern economy, if given a chance.

Of course, there I go, invoking history. Don't I understand that everything is different now? Well, I understand why people like to say that. But that doesn't make it true. □



Can the Islamic State Survive?



ROSS DOUTHAT
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The fall of an autocrat leads to foreign occupation and civil war. A revolutionary movement with a messianic vision capitalizes on the chaos to gain power. The revolutionaries rule through terror and the promise of utopia, and inspire copycats around the world. But other nations impose a quarantine, internal rivals regain ground, and despite initial successes the new regime seems unlikely to survive - especially once outside powers, including the United States, join the fight against it.

This is the story to date of the Islamic State, also known as ISIS, which defied predictions of its imminent collapse by capturing Ramadi in Iraq and Palmyra in Syria last week. A "tactical setback," President Barack Obama called these developments, and quite possibly they are; it's still hard to imagine that the self-styled caliphate can long endure.

But this is also the story of the Soviet Union's early days, when it seemed highly implausible that a cabal of Bolsheviks would rule the Russian empire for seventy-odd years. When the Bolshevik regime was about the age that the Islamic State is today, the United States, France, and Britain were supporting its White Russian adversaries and landing troops in Russia; Japan and a reborn Poland were pressuring the Bolsheviks from east and west; and the fear instilled by the Red Terror seemed like the primary force keeping the pariah state from crumbling.

A generation later, that pariah was a global superpower. The differences between the

two situations are legion, of course. The Bolsheviks controlled key urban and industrial centers, while ISIS is truly dominant only in the Iraqi and Syrian hinterland. The Soviet Union's foreign enemies were exhausted by world war, and their ability to project military power was far more limited than America's is today. However geopolitically important, Russia in 1919 was peripheral to many great powers' immediate security concerns, while ISIS is sitting at an oil-rich crossroads and murdering Western citizens every chance it gets. And the Islamic State's worldview conspicuously (and mercifully) lacks the Western cheering section and sense of historical momentum that Marxist-Leninism once enjoyed.

But the Soviet example is still a useful reminder that the "inevitable" fall of fanatical upstarts is not always actually inevitable. And it offers a few lessons in how, against all odds, the Islamic State might actually survive.

First, because great powers get war-weary and distracted. As different as our situation is from the aftermath of World War I, it's clear that the United States would be more involved militarily against ISIS if we didn't have the recent disillusioning experience of a bloody occupation in Iraq. And it's easy to imagine events intruding - another economic crisis, a hotter war in Ukraine, brinkmanship with China - that could make Ramadi look as remote to our interests as Arkhangelsk and Vladivostok seemed to the average Westerner in 1919.

Second, because a regime fighting for its survival has an edge over a coalition of less-invested adversaries. Yes, the Islamic State has made enemies of just about every neighboring government and military. But that means its leaders and foot soldiers know that they're in a victory-or-death situation, which creates incentives similar to the ones that helped the So-

viets, and before them revolutionary France, fend off attacks from all comers.

Third, because realpolitik can help even fanatics find allies of convenience. The Bolsheviks came to power in part because Germany deliberately shipped Lenin to St. Petersburg, and Berlin cultivated secret military ties with the Soviets across the 1920s. In a somewhat similar way, the Islamic State has already been funded by Sunni donors from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Qatar, and so long as ISIS remains at war with Iran and its proxies, the Sunni powers won't root unreservedly against it.

If the Islamic State remains permanently at war with them, of course, cooperation will be impossible.

But messianic ideologies are sometimes more adaptable than you expect.

In a compelling Atlantic essay on the Islamic State's theological commitments, Graeme Wood argued that the caliphate will be "hamstrung" by its apocalyptic vision, which rules out any real truce or suspension of jihad. Which may be true; fanatical movements often burn themselves out for just this reason. But sometimes they find a way - as the Bolsheviks did - to tweak their ideologies when survival requires it, and to rely on ethnic and national loyalties as well. Which the Islamic State has done already: It has ex-Baathists in its military leadership, just as Trotsky's army had ex-tsarists; it's exploited Sunni grievances just as Stalin relied on nationalist and even religious pride in World War II.

Whether it can compromise further depends on power struggles that are probably already underway, invisible to Western eyes. And it's still likely that no strategy will preserve the caliphate, especially if the next American president commits fully to its destruction.

But it hasn't collapsed yet. And the longer it survives, the longer it might. □

The Ice Cream Sandwich Comes of Age in New York

LIGAYA MISHAN

© 2015 New York Times

The American ice cream sandwich was born in the

graded to cookies and cake) are integral to the whole. They should make the ice cream better than

emerges with a toasted frill; inside, the gelato is soft but still deeply cold, and the change in temperature as

cream line a sweet bun from a Chinese bakery, split at the top to mimic a lobster roll, with a dab under-

toasted to a state near Rice Krispies. The result is a fine reciprocity of crunch and give, and flavors that incline more toward but-tery than sweet.

Triangles of waffle, fresh from the iron, make up the fluffy outer strata of the sandwich (\$6 to \$7, depending on the kind of waffle) at Mikey Likes It Ice Cream, a minuscule shop in the East Village dominated by a wall of surrealist clocks with gold hands sweeping over celebrity faces (Flava Flav, George Michael). On a recent evening, the waffles were best paired with their time-honored companion, maple syrup, in the form of maple ice cream embedded with walnuts and hunks of maple-walnut pie. (This flavor has gone temporarily off the menu, but it's worth exploring other options, as well as the occasionally available red velvet waffle.)

One night at Oddfellows Ice Cream Co., a shop in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, whose roster of flavors includes novelties like edamame and foie gras, the ice cream sandwich (\$7) seemed surprisingly conservative: two perforated chocolate wafers around vanilla ice cream. But texture was everything, with a crush of hazelnuts on the outer rim and, lurking in the vanilla, an oozing stripe of caramel.

Some makers of ice cream sandwiches show no interest in innovation, seeking only perfection. My favorite sandwich was the simplest, handed to me (for \$4.99) from a stall run by Luca & Bosco in the Essex Street Market on the Lower East Side. The ice cream was brown sugar molasses, with a lovely, almost subliminal bitterness holding the sweetness in check, between blocks of exceptionally dark, chewy brownie. I ate it on a bitter late-winter night, as the wind off the sidewalk found my coat's every weakness and my fingers went half-numb. By then I'd tasted so many ice cream sandwiches, I feared I'd never look on one again with affection, and still I ate every bite. □



An ice cream sandwich, made with a red velvet waffle and a banana waffle, at Mikey Likes It Ice Cream in New York. From its humble pushcart-vendor beginnings in the early 1900s, here's a look at how far the ice cream sandwich has come in a century. (An Rong Xu/The New York Times)

Bowery district of Manhattan in the early 1900s, when a pushcart vendor slapped together skinny wafers and vanilla ice cream and handed them for a penny each to shoeshiners and stockbrokers alike.

Only the latter are likely to have access to the version now served on the Bowery at the high-minded restaurant Pearl & Ash. Here the sandwich (\$6) arrives wrapped in paper with a happy face scrawled on it, belying the adult flavors within: ice cream suffused with Campari, vermouth and juniper (to conjure gin). It is a Negroni, transmuted, and tastes frankly medicinal, unmitigated by the trace of orange (the cocktail's garnish) in thin bookends of vanilla cake. The calculus of the first ice cream sandwich was simple: mostly cold and creamy, with a little crunch on either end. But unlike the cone, which functions primarily as a serving vessel, those crunchy ends (originally wafers, later up-

graded to cookies and cake) are integral to the whole. They should make the ice cream better than

if it stood alone. Not every combination works. Cookies and ice cream that are perfectly delightful on their own can be, once married, a bore. How far has the ice cream sandwich come in a century? To find out, I visited a dozen ice cream shops and restaurants that have opened in New York in the last few years. (Note that the season is not quite upon us, and some purveyors are still in hibernation.)

Pearl & Ash's take may be the most radical in the city, at least in terms of flavor; its appearance, as a dainty, tripartite oblong, is classic. Elsewhere, the usual sweet enclosing layers have been supplanted by bread, an idea imported from abroad and arguably more true to the name sandwich. At A.B. Biagi, a gelato shop with an Old World aura a block west of the Bowery, a brioche as big as a bagel is slit and given a serious schmear of gelato, then half-smashed in a sandwich press (\$8). It

you eat is half the pleasure. In Sicily this could be breakfast.

Morgenstern's Finest Ice Cream, a bright parlor a half-block east of the Bowery, makes an open-face sandwich (\$12), the base a slice of Japanese shokupan, a pliant white Pullman loaf that evokes Wonder Bread but with more resilience. It's saturated with honey and blitzed with a hand torch until gooey at the center and crackly on top, then loaded with two scoops of raw-milk ice cream, astonishingly pure in flavor, and drizzled with more honey. One more torching and the ice cream starts to collapse. The sweet meld exerts an almost gravitational pull: it's sort of too much, but it keeps dragging you back.

The Thai incarnation of the ice cream sandwich, kha-nom pang ai tiim, is imposing as served at the restaurant Pok Pok Ny, on the Columbia Street Waterfront in Brooklyn. Four mounds of coconut-jackfruit ice

neath of sticky rice cooked down with sugar and pandan-scented coconut cream (\$7). The bread is sturdy enough to withstand the slow melt without disintegrating, and shattered peanuts, chocolate syrup and sweetened condensed milk make gratifyingly sloppy trimmings. Alas, the sandwich is too big to pick up and eat; as at Morgenstern's, utensils are required.

Two ice cream sandwiches come to an order (\$5.50) at House of Inasal, a Filipino restaurant in Woodside, Queens. They suggest overgrown sliders in school-spirit colors: regal ube (purple yam) ice cream on golden rolls of baliwag, rich with eggs and milk. Each is adorned with a spackle of ube halaya, mashed purple yam thickened with coconut milk, sweetened condensed milk and a touch of butter; curls of young coconut; and scattered pops of pinipig, unripened glutinous rice that has been pounded and